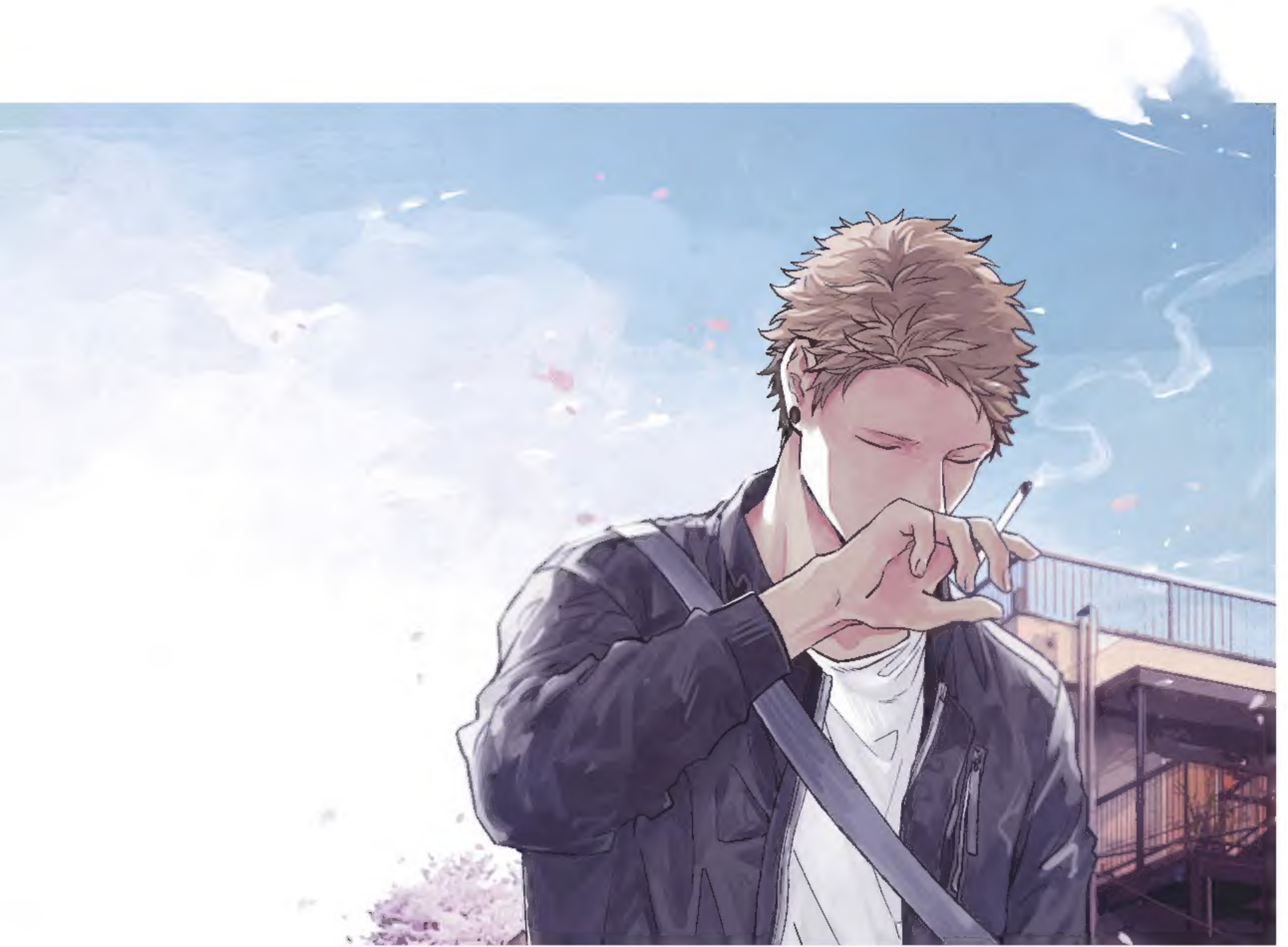


given

STORY AND ART BY
NATSUKI KIZU

5







Given

Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

volume 5

CONTENTS

Chapter 22	005
Chapter 23	033
Chapter 24	063
Chapter 25	087
Chapter 26	105
Chapter 27	133
Chapter 28	175
Bonus Story: Emergence	201



given

VOLUME 5

NATSUKI KIZU



RITSUKA UENOYAMA

(GUITAR)

Guitarist with skills far beyond those of an average high school student. Caring and compassionate.

In a new relationship with Mafuyu.



MAFUYU SATO

(GUITAR & VOCALS)

High school classmate of Uenoyama's. Has an impressive singing voice. Attached to Uenoyama ever since he fixed Mafuyu's broken guitar.

The band, now going by the name Given, enters a competition to take part in an upcoming a music festival. Haruki continues to nurse his secret crush on Akihiko, who's still entangled with his roommate and ex-boyfriend, professional violinist Ugetsu Murata. Driven into a corner by that dead-end relationship, Akihiko shows up at Haruki's place out of desperation. Haruki can't just stand by while Akihiro is suffering, but his heart breaks when even his offer to help is rejected. However, he still lets Akihiro move in with him, since the volatile drummer is effectively homeless after leaving the house he had shared with Ugetsu.



UGETSU MURATA

Violin prodigy. Akihiko's ex-boyfriend. Even though he and Akihiko broke up, they still have an intense—and sometimes sexual—relationship.



AKIHIKO KAJI

(DRUMMER)

University student.
His focus as a music major is the violin, but he's also good at playing guitar and bass.
Has known Ugetsu since their high school days.



HARUKI NAKAYAMA

(BASSIST)

Graduate student at the same university as Akihiko. The leader of the band, as well as its manager and peacemaker. Had his heart broken by Akihiko, but still lets him stay in his apartment.

When Ritsuka Uenoyama hears Mafuyu Sato sing for the first time, he's blown away by the other boy's raw talent and immediately asks Mafuyu to join his band. Uenoyama's bandmates Akihiko Kaji and Haruki Nakayama agree, and the three of them set a goal of coming up with a new song to perform at an upcoming concert. It falls to Mafuyu to write the lyrics, a task the quiet student finds impossible. Mafuyu lost his first love to suicide, which he partially blames himself for, a trauma that has left him reluctant to put his feelings into words.

However, during the concert, Mafuyu's pent-up emotions burst out of him and pour into the song. His spontaneous, powerful performance turns the show into an overwhelming success. Shocked into awareness, Uenoyama realizes he has feelings for Mafuyu and kisses him backstage. Before long, the two of them become a couple.

chapter 22

given

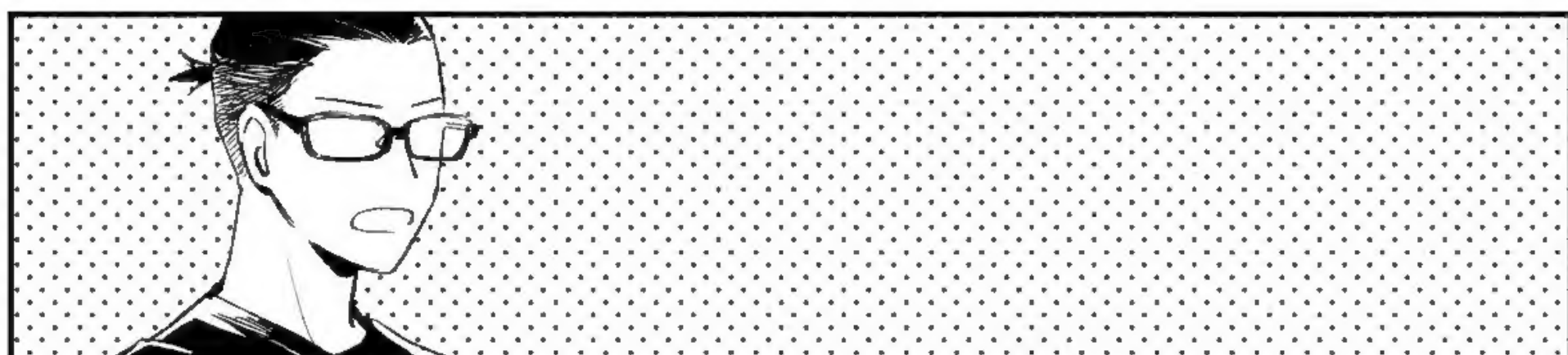


YEAH,
YEAH.

COMING
...

ding
dong♪

!



WHAT
?!!

MP

WH

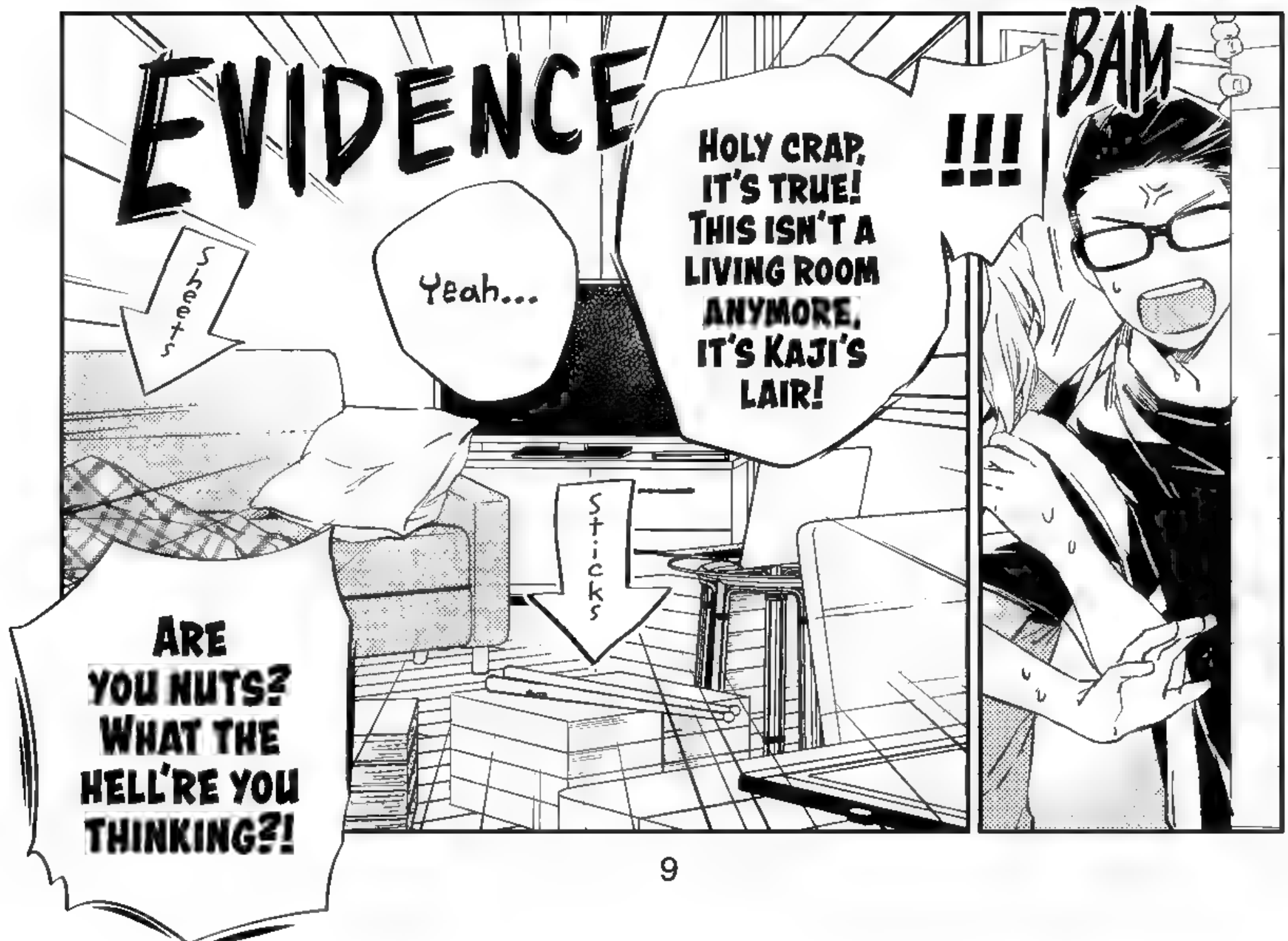
roll...

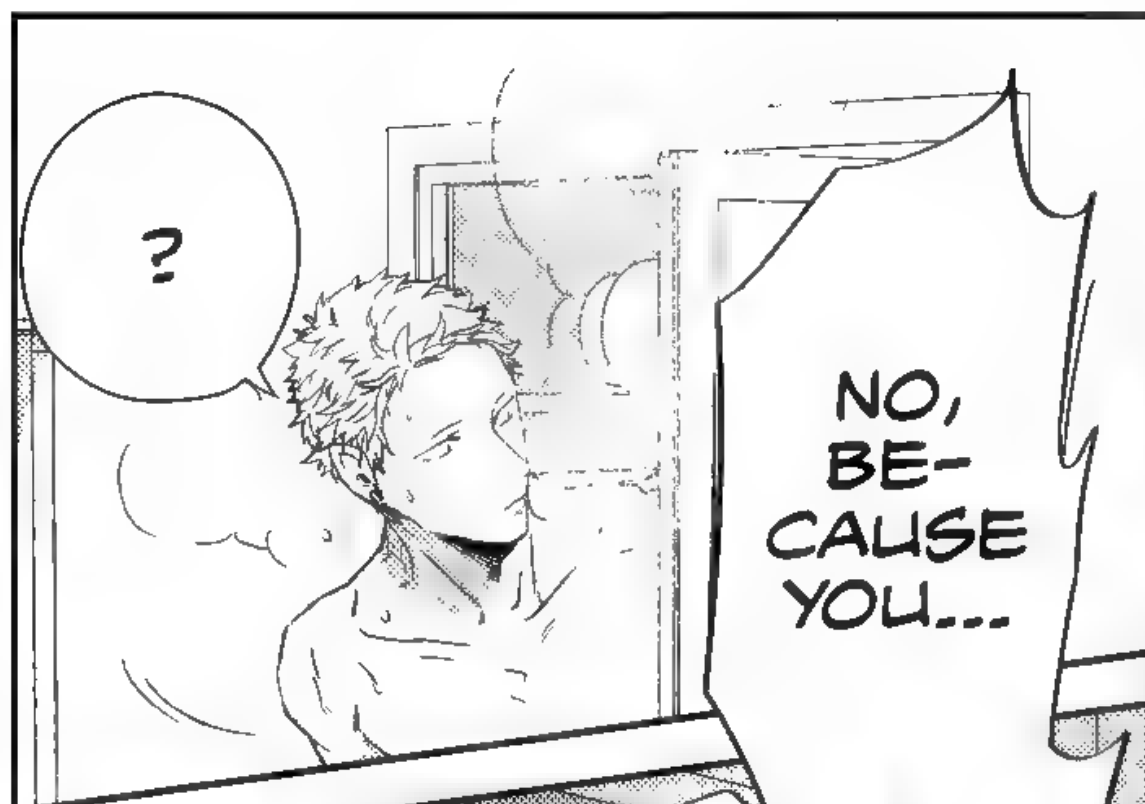


given

chapter 22







?

NO,
BE-
CAUSE
YOU...



BECAUSE I
WHAT?!

YOU

whap

KCHAK



I KNOW,
ALL RIGHT?!
YACCHAN,
LET'S JUST
STEP
OUTSIDE
FOR A
SEC...

HARUKI?
IS
SOMEONE
HERE?

ratt!

ratt!

YEAH,
IT WAS
ME,
YATAKE!!

CUT
IT
OUT!



NEVER
MIND...

THE
THING
IS...

...I'VE
ALWAYS
HAD A
HUNCH...

...THAT
HARUKI'S
BEEN
CARRYING
A TORCH
FOR KAJI.

THAT
NIGHT
WHEN...

...HE
SHOWED
UP MY
PLACE...

...ALL HE
SAID WAS,
"I KINDA
HAD A
LITTLE
FIGHT WITH
AKIHIKO."





YEAH...

HE JUST
HAD HIS
HEART
BROKEN.

I TOOK
ONE
LOOK AT
HIS RED-
RIMMED
EYES
AND
THOUGHT...

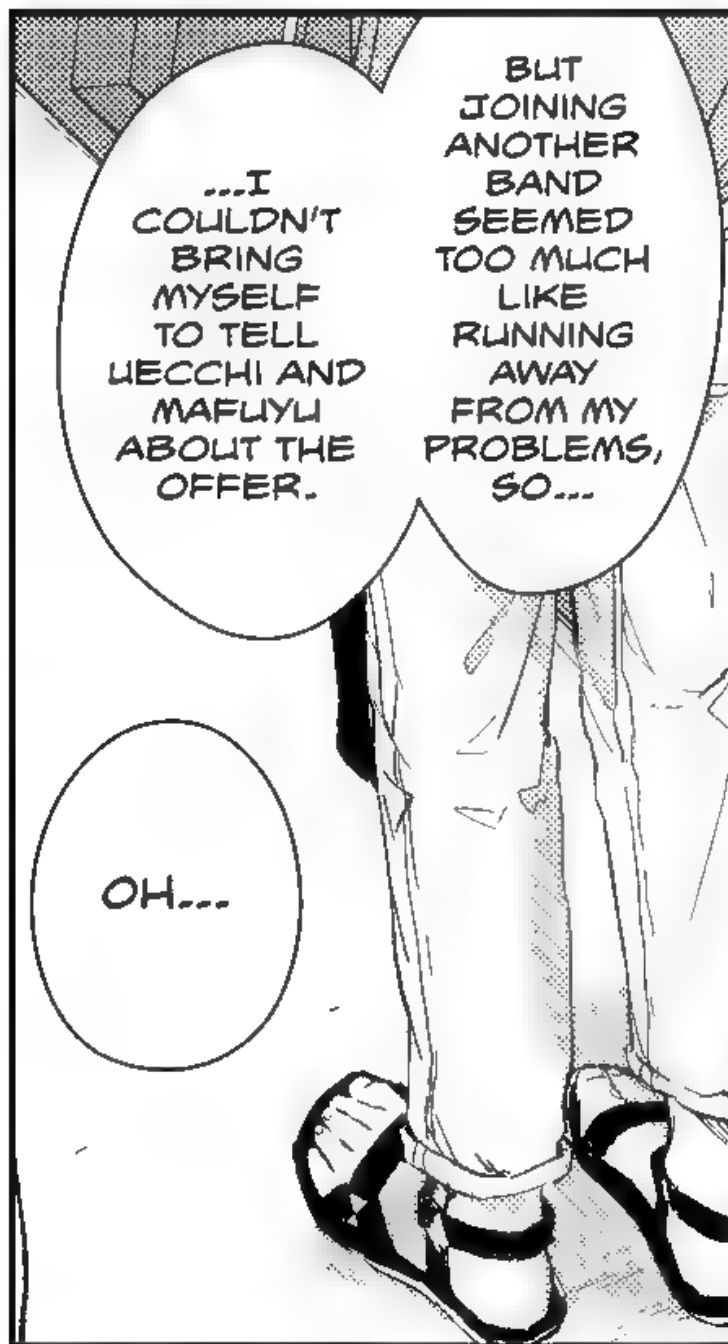
...AND I
WASN'T
GOING
TO ASK...

HE
DIDN'T
GO INTO
ANY
DETAILS
...

...BUT IT SEEMED PRETTY CLEAR
THAT SOMETHING MAJOR HAD
HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM.

SOMETHING LIKE YEARS AND
YEARS OF PENT-UP FEELINGS
BEING CRUSHED IN A SINGLE NIGHT.





...I
COULDN'T
BRING
MYSELF
TO TELL
UECCHI AND
MAFUYU
ABOUT THE
OFFER.

BUT
JOINING
ANOTHER
BAND
SEEMED
TOO MUCH
LIKE
RUNNING
AWAY
FROM MY
PROBLEMS,
SO...

OH...



IT'S
NOT THAT
I'M BEING
FAITHFUL.
IT'S JUST
THAT...

...I'D
BEEN
FEELING
LIKE A LOT
OF THINGS
WEREN'T
GOING
RIGHT FOR
ME.



...



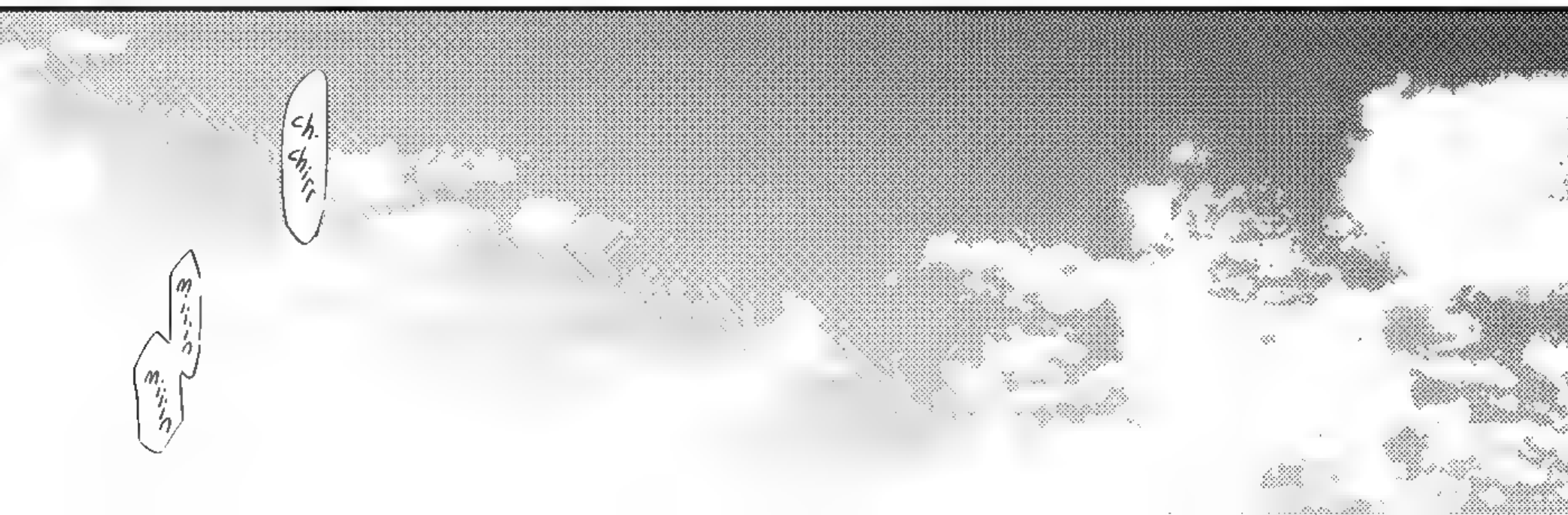
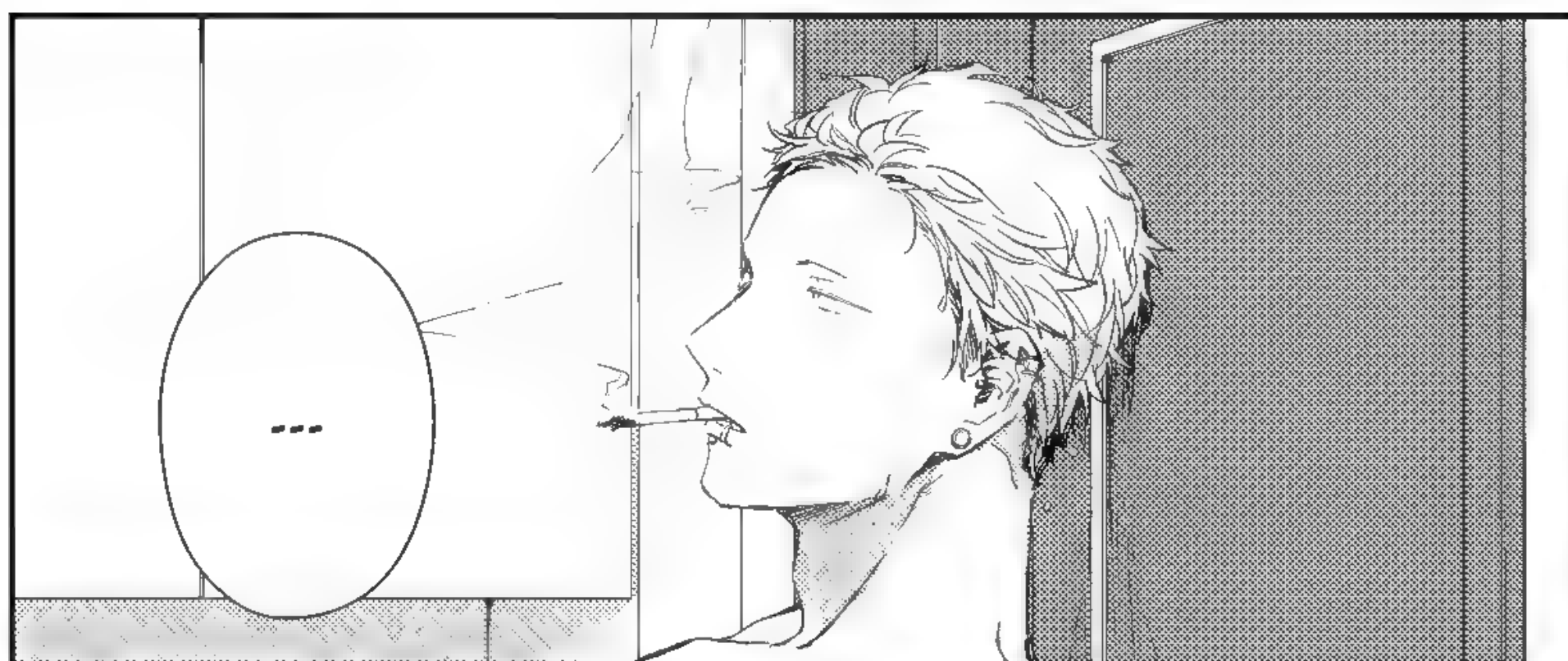
SEEMS
LIKE YOU'VE
KIND OF...
GOTTEN OVER
WHATEVER
IT WAS?

YEAH,
I THINK
SO.



IT
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
FAIR TO THE
KIDS TO DITCH
THEM WITHOUT
TALKING
ABOUT IT,
SO THAT'S
WHY I ASKED
MY EX IF WE
COULD...

...PUT
THINGS
ON HOLD
FOR
NOW.







EVERY TIME
WE TAKE
A BREAK,
PART OF
ME WANTS
TO BAIL
AND GO
HOME.

...

beep

whir



Tch!

**DID
YOU JUST
"TCH!" ME?!**



BUT
WHEN IT
COMES
TO MUSIC,
HE'S AS
MUCH OF
A TYRANT
AS EVER.

YOU'RE
LATE
ON THE
FIRST
BAR.

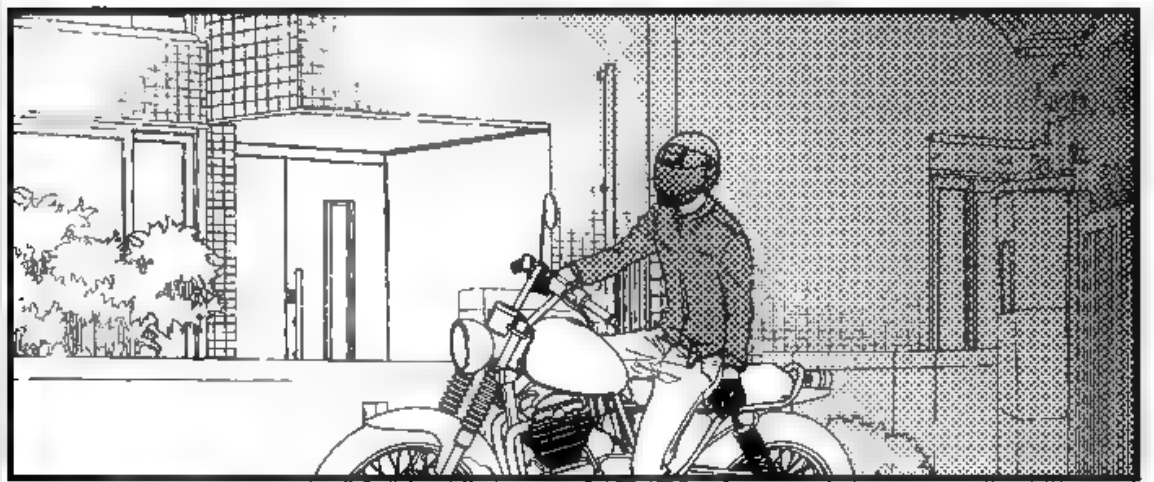
WHEN
LIENOYAMA
FIRST
STARTED
GOING
OUT WITH
MAFLYU,
I WAS
WORRIED
THAT IT
WOULD
MAKE HIM
SOFT.

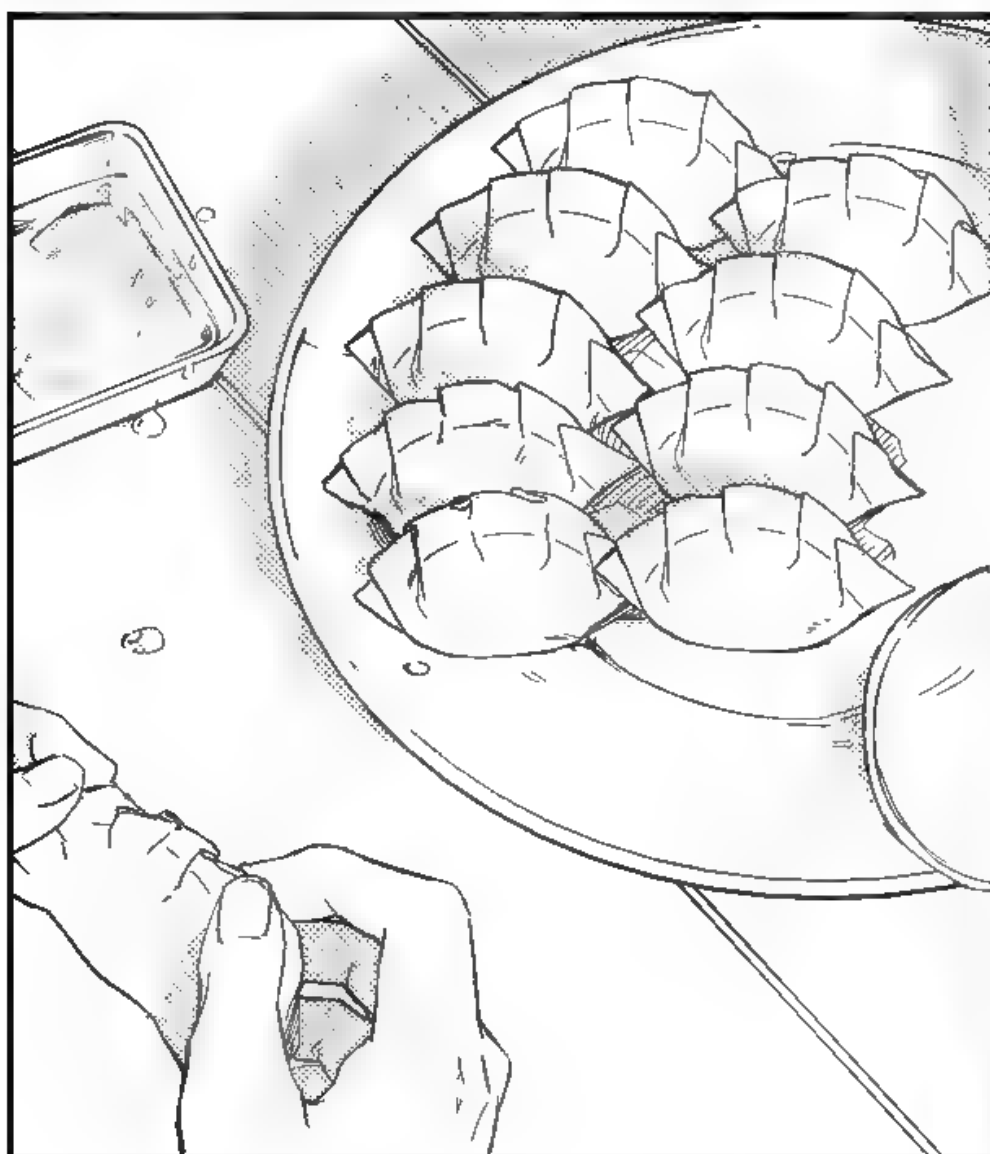
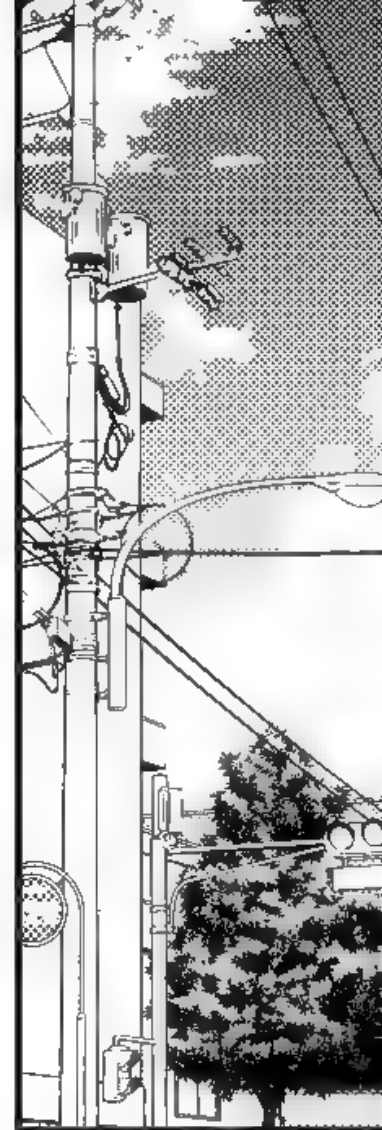


THAT
SAID...

...LIENO-
YAMA'S
THE ONE
WHO'S
KEEPING
US ON
TRACK TO
PREPARE
FOR...

...THE
COUNTDOWN
FEST
AMATEUR
CONTEST.





AND NOW
IT'S
ALREADY
THE
END OF
AUGUST.









HIRAGI

THANKS
FOR
MAKING ME
PUT ON A
YUKATA.



DON'T
WORRY,
NO ONE'S
ATTITUDE
IS BIGGER
THAN
YOURS,
HIRAGI.

LOOKS
LIKE HE'S
GOT AN
ATTITUDE.

WHAT
DO YOU
SEE IN
HIM?



MAFLUYU!



I feel sorry
for him.

HUH
?!!

NOW
HURRY
UP AND
GET
WITH
SHIZU.



clamor

tak

WHAT
THE...?

SHIZU'S
LATE...



WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
OF MY
OUTFIT?

IT'S
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM YOUR
NORMAL
LOOK, BUT...
IT'S NOT
BAD...

OH?

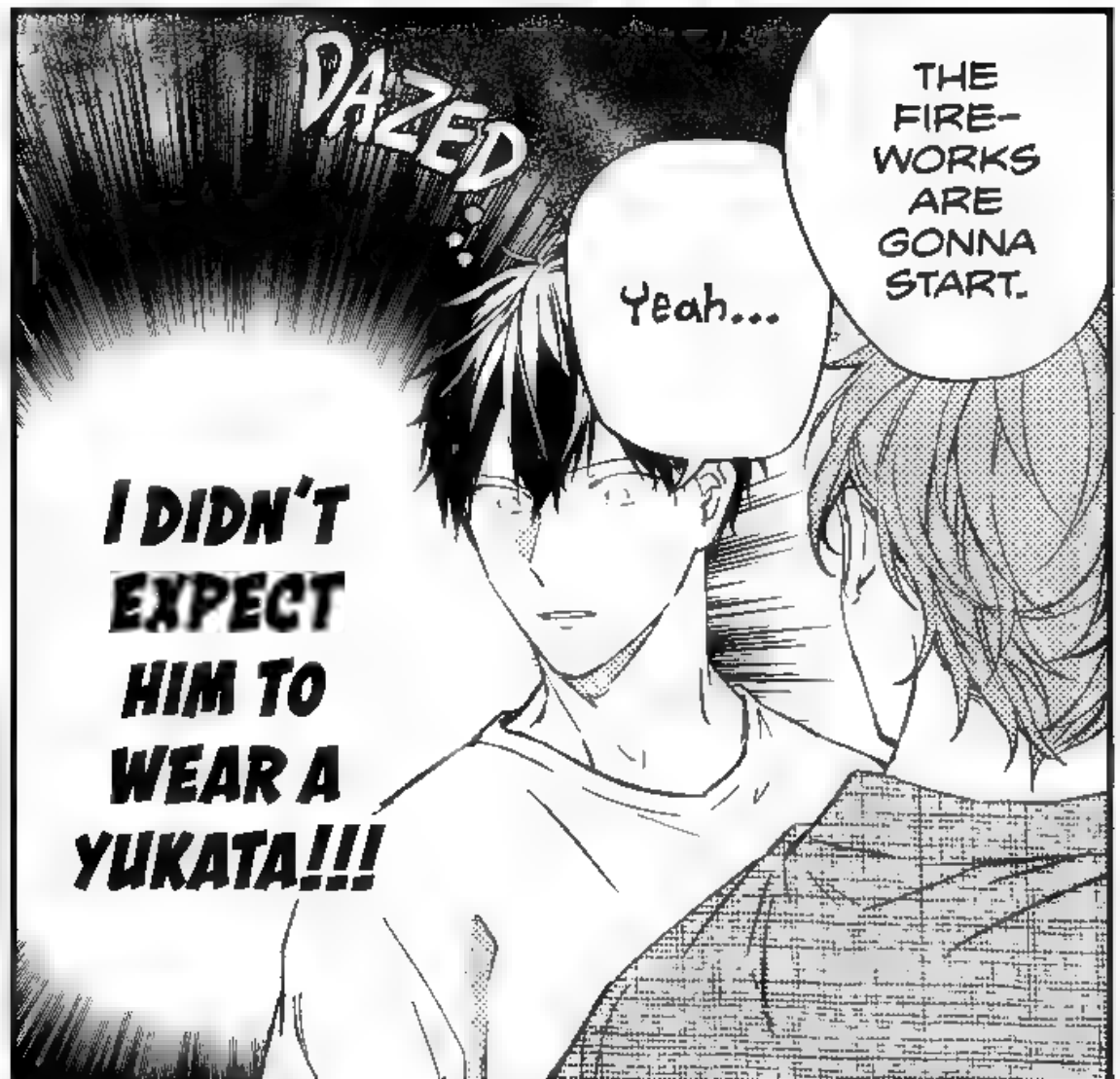


DAZED

Yeah...

THE
FIRE-
WORKS
ARE
GONNA
START.

**I DIDN'T
EXPECT
HIM TO
WEAR A
YUKATA!!!**



I FEEL
LIKE ALL I'VE
BEEN DOING
LATELY IS JUST
WORKING AND
REHEARSING.

You,
too.

WE
HAVEN'T
HAD MUCH
OF A
CHANCE
TO TALK...



IT'S A
NICE CHANGE,
MEETING
OUTSIDE OF
THE STUDIO
AND SCHOOL
LIKE THIS.

YEAH.



Dying From Guilt

WE
TALKED.
WE HAD
A FIGHT,
REMEM-
BER?

...THERE
WAS MAD
FRICTION
GOING ON
BETWEEN HIM
AND KAJI.

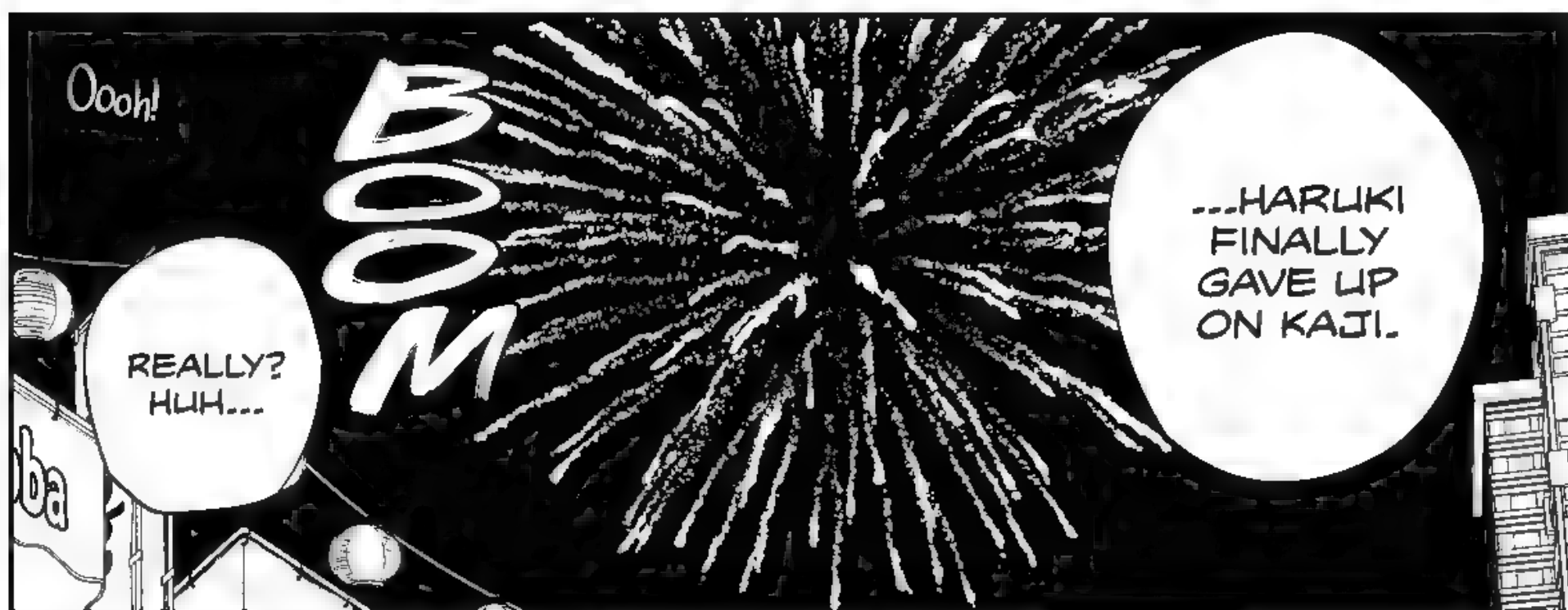
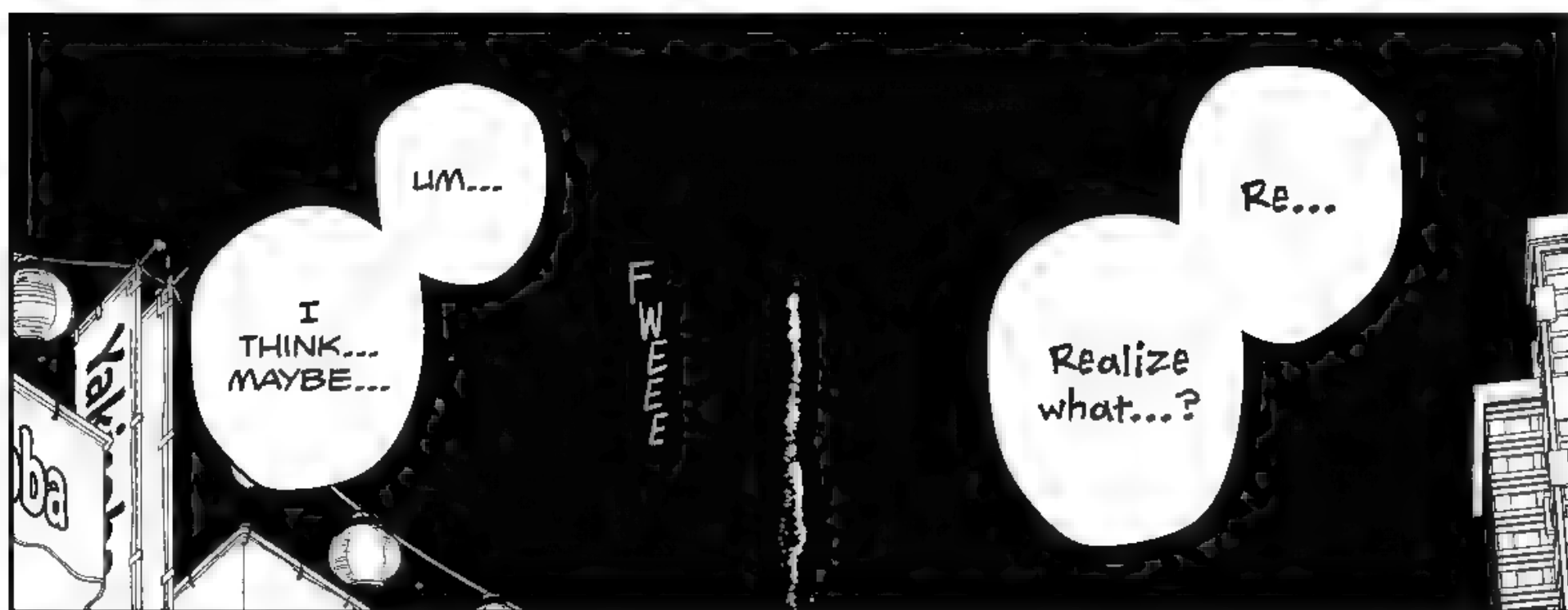
WHEN HARUKI
CHOPPED
OFF ALL
HIS HAIR A
FEW WEEKS
AGO...

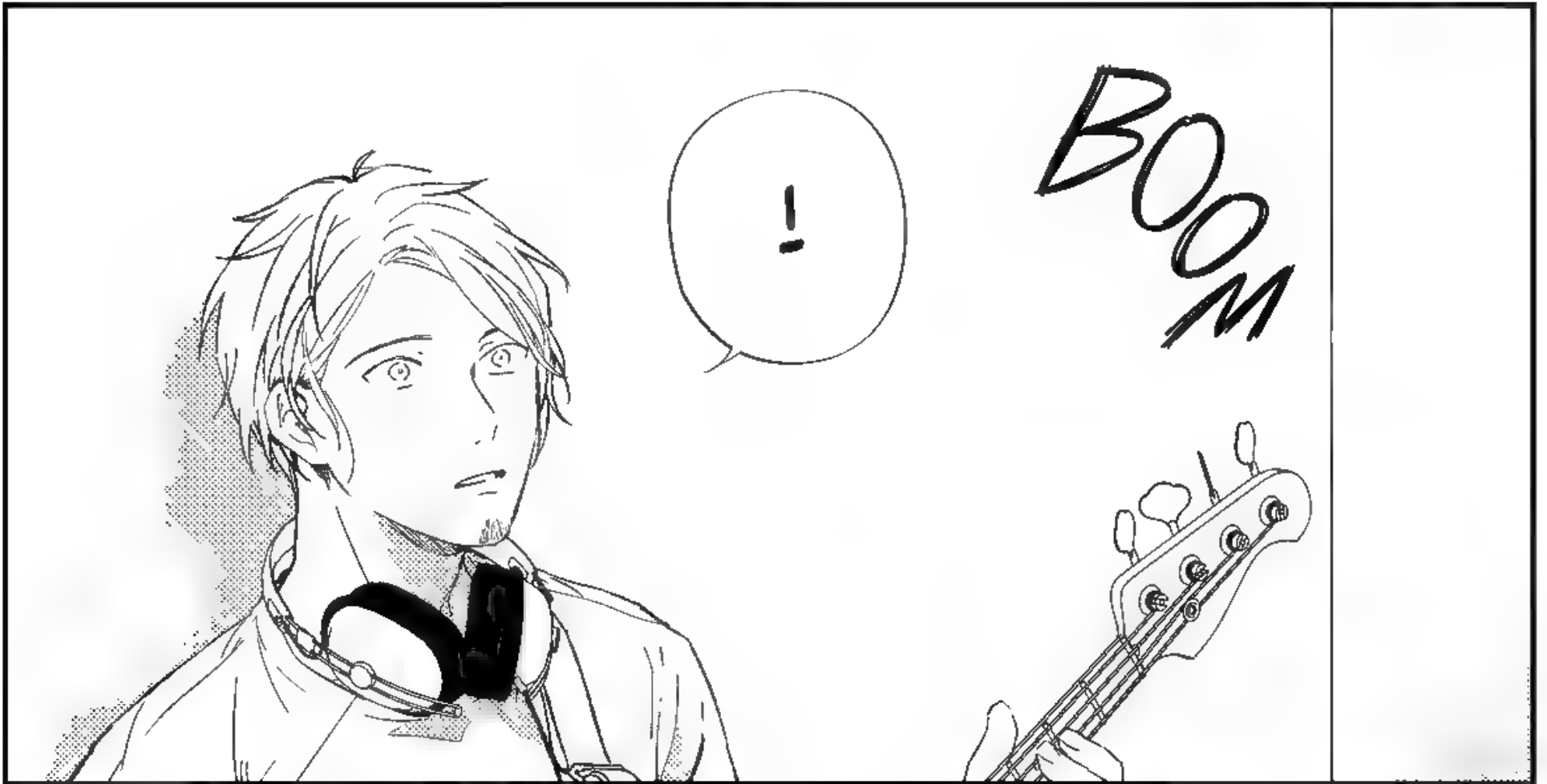
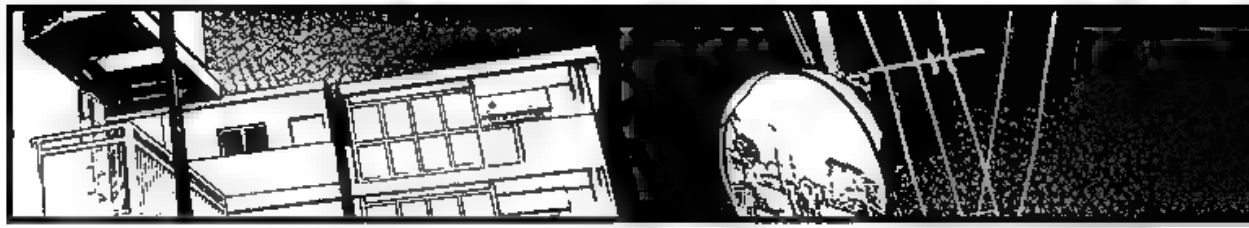
SPEAKING
OF
FIGHTS...

I THINK
SOMETHING
MIGHT'VE
HAPPENED
BETWEEN
THEM...

clamor
clamor

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?









...THEY
SURE
ARE
PRETTY
TO WATCH
FROM
HERE.

BUT

...



...



BOOM

YOU
NEVER
WENT
TO SEE
FIREWORKS
WITH HIM?



NOPE,
NEVER.



...

I
THINK...



...THINGS
ARE JUST
ABOUT
OVER
BETWEEN
US NOW.





I
CAN'T
DO IT
ANY-
MORE.

BUT IT
HURTS
TOO
MUCH.



YEAH
...

THAT
WAS THE
FIRST
TIME...



HEY.

...
AKIHIKO
AND I
WERE
EQUALS.

...I
FELT
LIKE...



THANKS
FOR
LETTING
ME STAY
HERE.

YOU'RE
WEL-
COME.

given

by Natsuki Kizu

chop
chop
chop
tunk
klang

blink

chapter 23 | given

AND
NOW,
TO-
NIGHT'S
HEAD-
LINES.

DUE
TO HIGH
WINDS
ALL JR
LINES IN
THE METRO
AREA ARE...

klik
snap

UGH...

MUSTA
FELL
ASLEEP

HOW
LONG
WAS I
OUT...?

WAVE



?!

YOU
WORKED
A LATE
SHIFT
LAST NIGHT,
DIDN'T
YOU?

BESIDES,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO GET
HUNG UP
ON THE IDEA
OF COOKING
EVERY
NIGHT.

SMILE



!!!

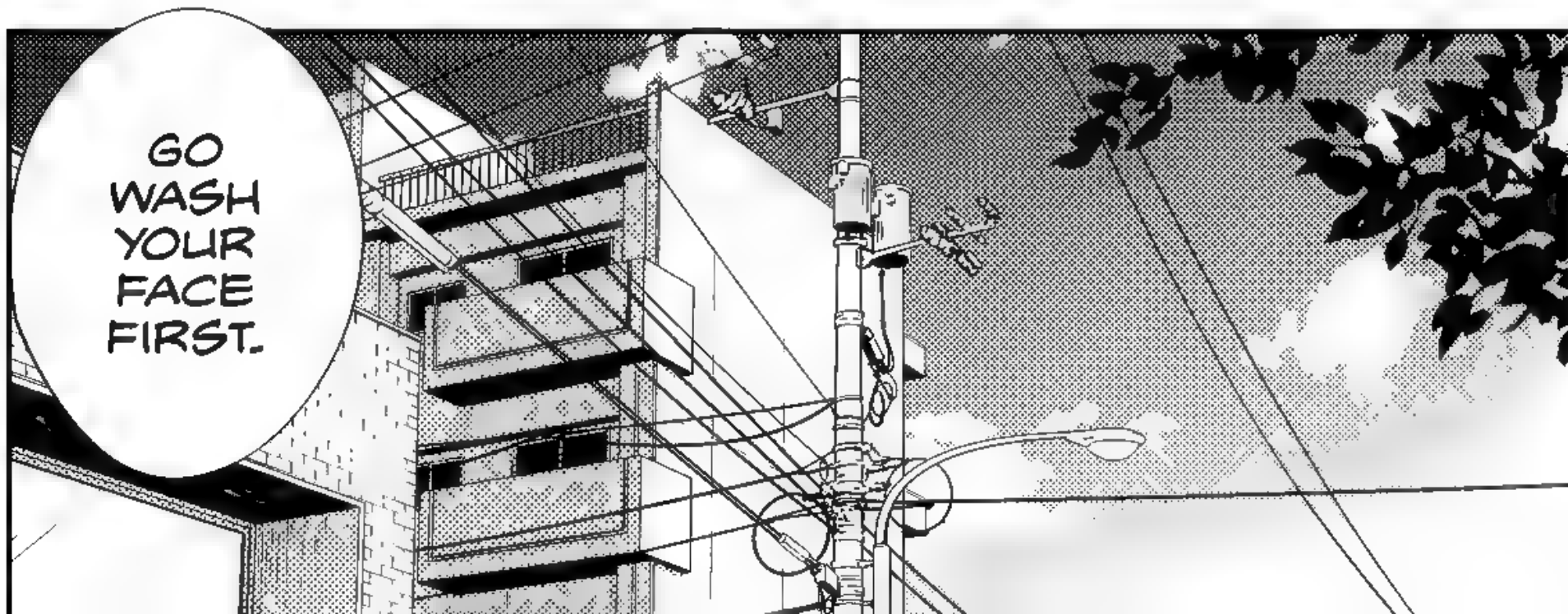
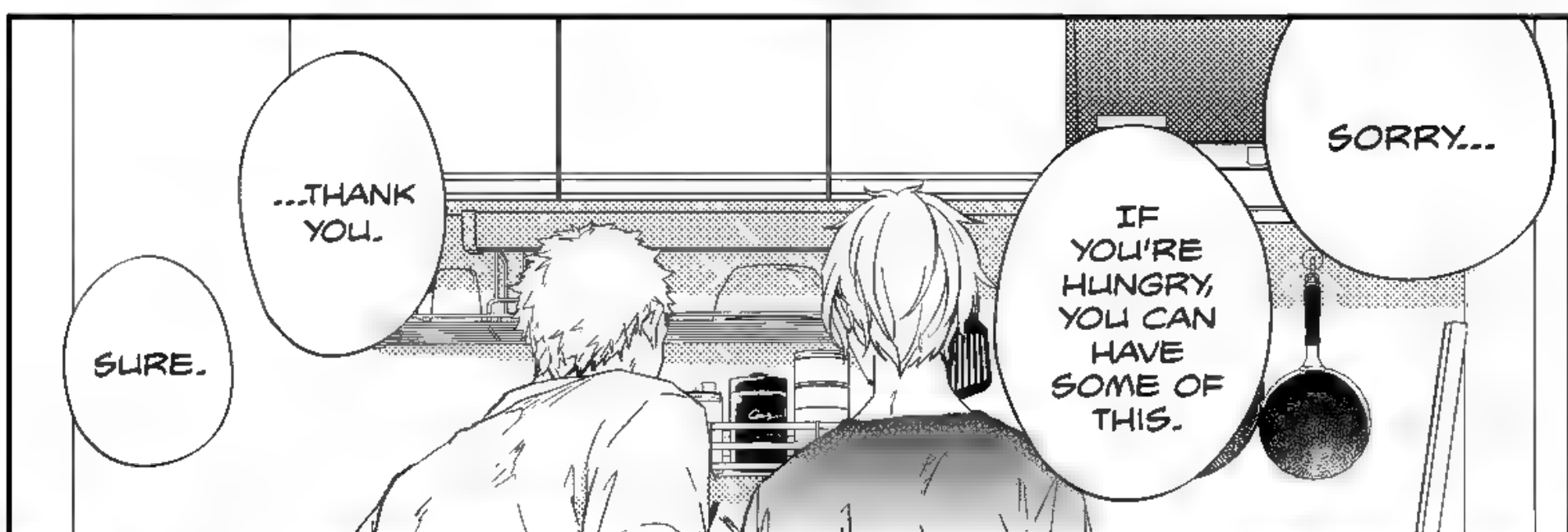
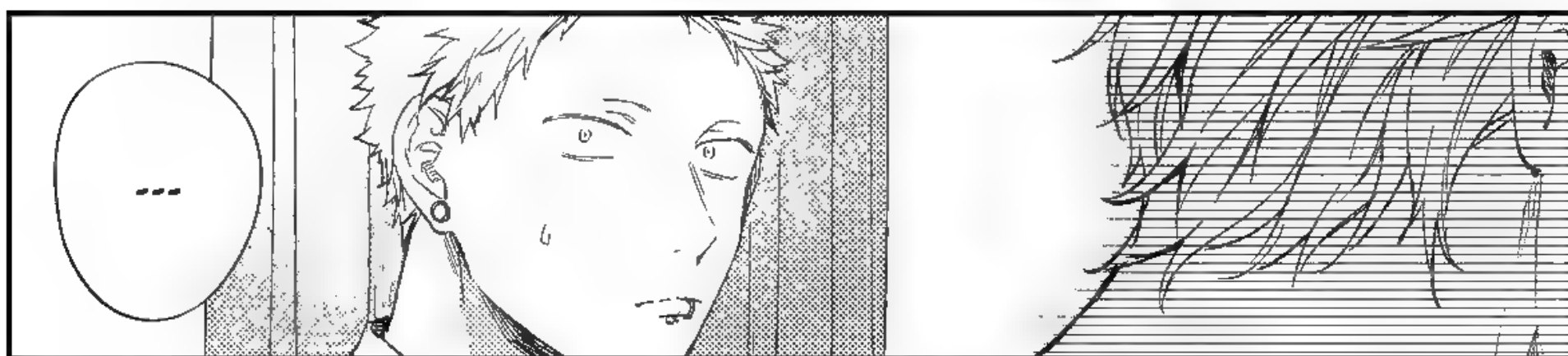
SHOCK



IT'S
COOL..

AW, MAN,
I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T
MAKE
DINNER!

TUMPLE



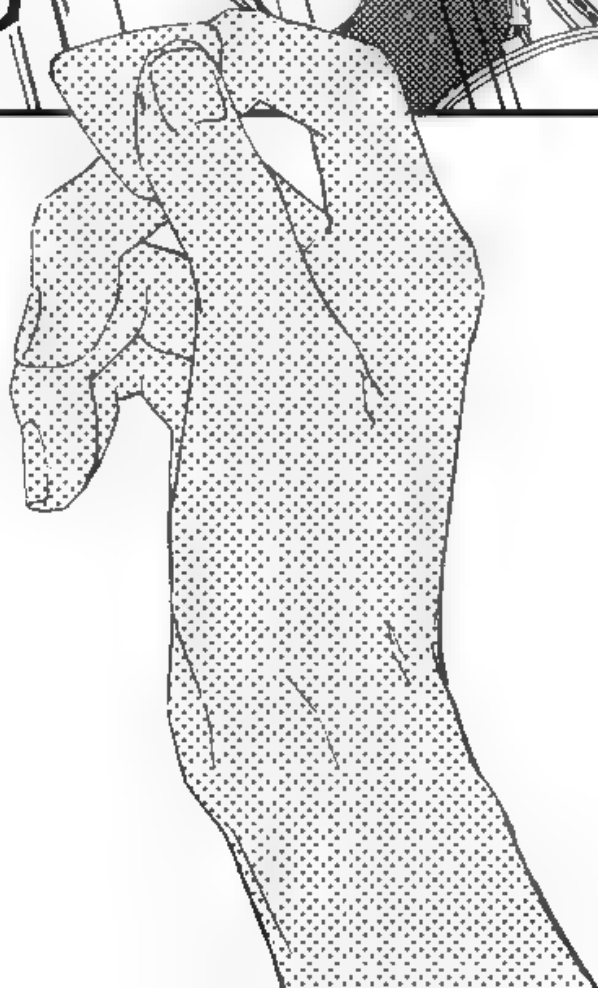
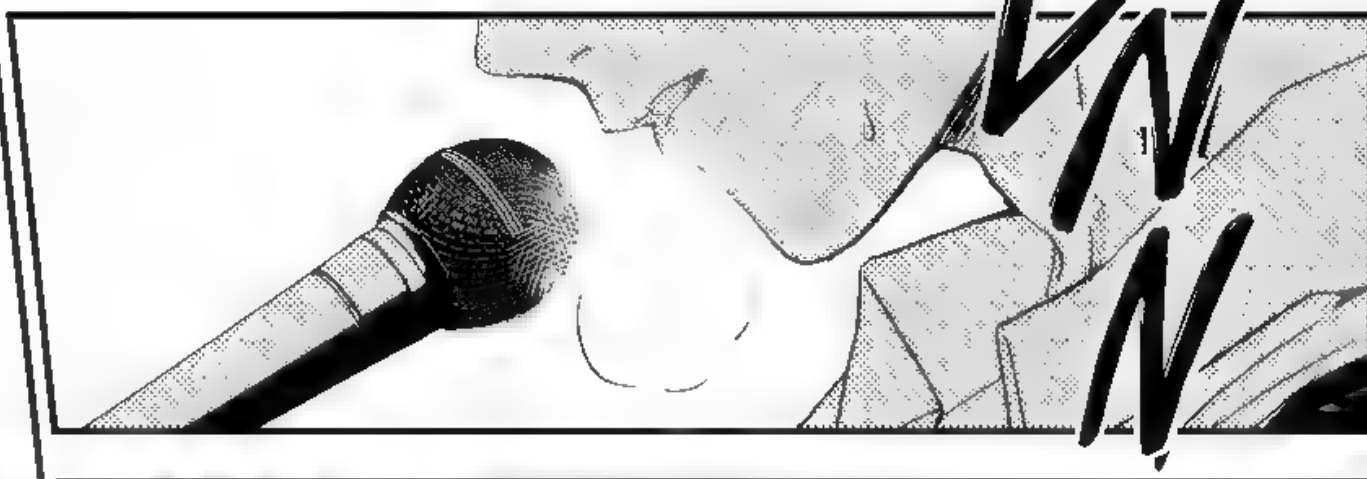
chapter 23

given











DID
WE...



...GET
IT?



YEAH,
WE'RE
OKAY.



SUMMER
VACATION
IS
ALMOST
OVER.

WE STILL
NEED
REAL
LYRICS,
THOUGH.

YES!
GOOD
JOB,
GUYS!

Hahh...

slump



I'LL
SEND
YOU GUYS
THE
RECORD-
ING.

AND
OUR
NEW
SONG...

...IS
FINISHED.
OR
ALMOST
FINISHED.

EVERY-
BODY
CHECK THE
SOUND
LATER
ON.



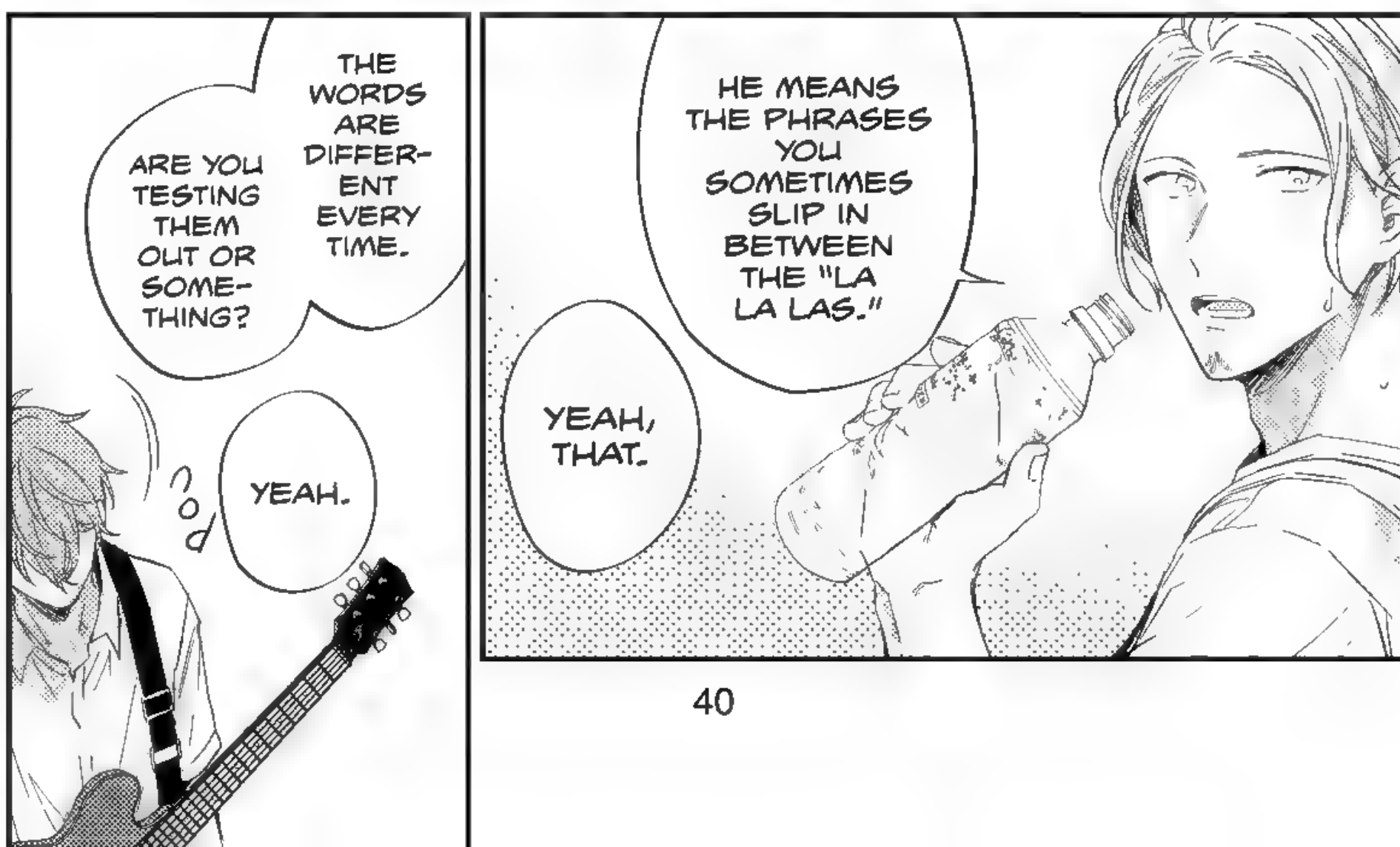
THE
RANDOM
STUFF YOU
WERE
SINGING.

?

...WHAT
WAS
THAT?

I'M NOT
GONNA PRETEND
TO UNDERSTAND
YOUR LYRIC-
ANXIETY ISSUES,
BUT...

ONE
LAST
THING.



ARE YOU
TESTING
THEM
OUT OR
SOME-
THING?

THE
WORDS
ARE
DIFFER-
ENT
EVERY
TIME.

YEAH.

YEAH,
THAT.

HE MEANS
THE PHRASES
YOU
SOMETIMES
SLIP IN
BETWEEN
THE "LA
LA LAS."





ANYWAY



YEAH,
I GUESS
THEY
ARE...

THEY
SEEM
TO BE
GETTING
ALONG
FINE.



MMM

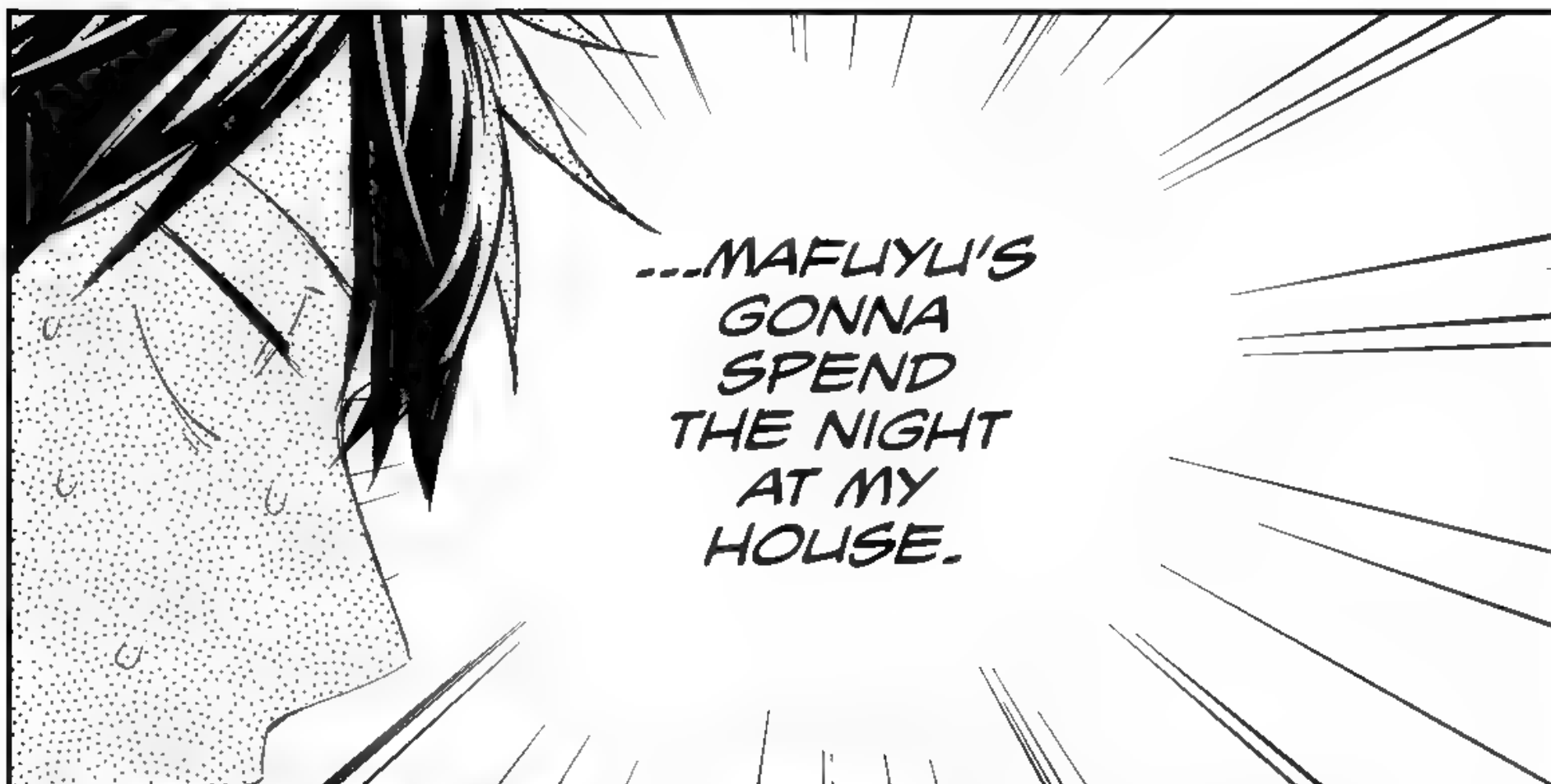
I
THINK
SO,
BUT...

YOU SURE
SOMETHING
HAPPENED
BETWEEN
THEM?



...YOU
STILL
WANNA
COME
OVER
TONIGHT?

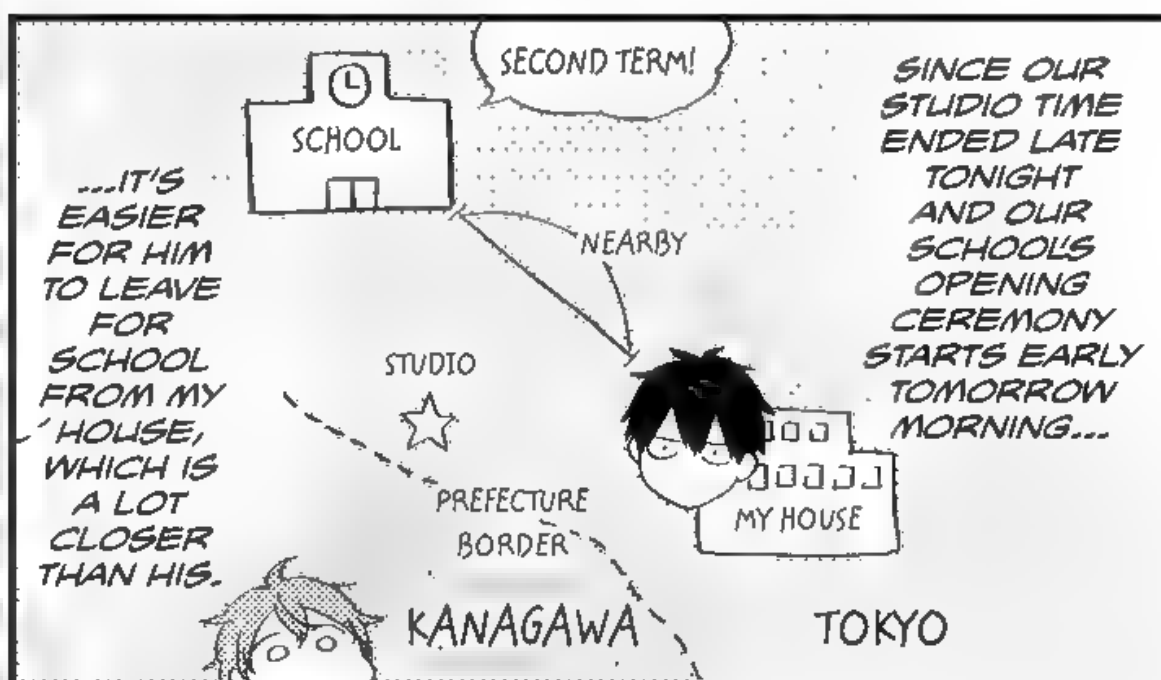
I
CAN'T
BELIEVE



...MAFLYU'S
GONNA
SPEND
THE NIGHT
AT MY
HOUSE.



IT'S A
COMPLETELY
INNOCENT
OFFER
(PROBABLY).



MY
FAMILY
WILL BE
HOME.
IS THAT
GONNA
BE
OKAY?!

BUT
IS IT
GONNA
BE
OKAY?

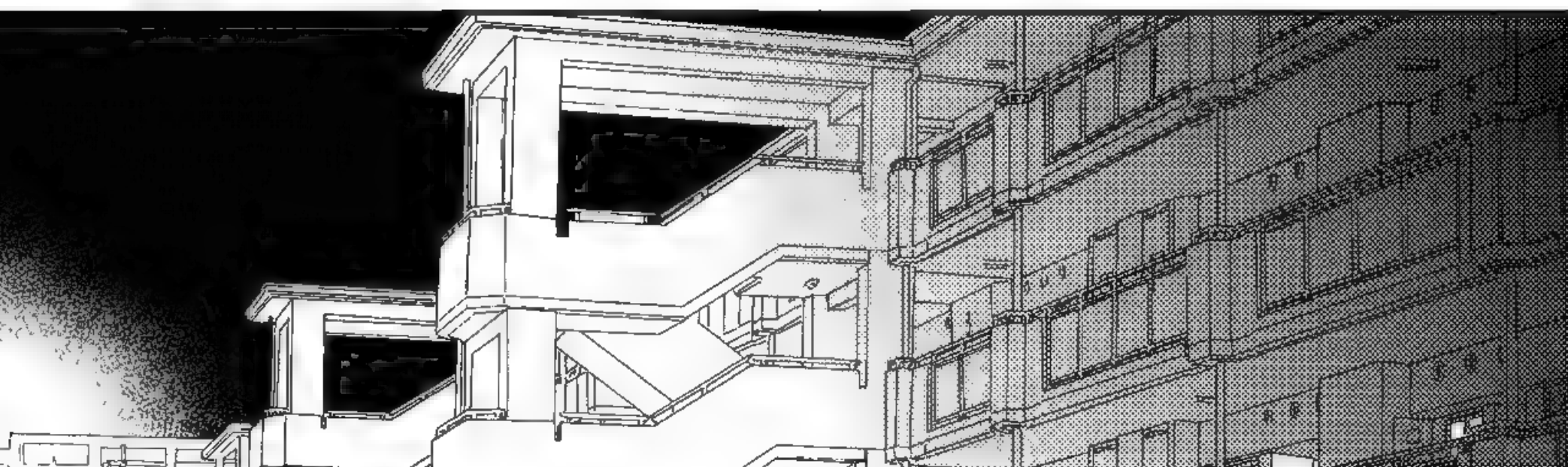
IT WAS
MADE
WITH NO
ULTERIOR
MOTIVES
(PROBABLY).



It'd be like,
"I wanna have
sexxxxxx!"

If we translated
what they're
yelling into
human speech







GOOD-
NIGHT.

tick

tick

**...EITHER
OF US ARE
GONNA
BE ABLE
TO FALL
ASLEEP.**

**YEAH,
RIGHT.
LIKE
THERE'S
ANY
WAY...**

NOW
WHAT
IS HE
DOING?

WHAT WAS
I THINKING,
IMPULSIVELY
INVITING
HIM OVER
LIKE THAT?





...WHAT
ABOUT
MAFLYU?
WHAT
DOES
HE
WANT?



I CAN
THINK
ABOUT
IT ALL
I WANT,
BUT...



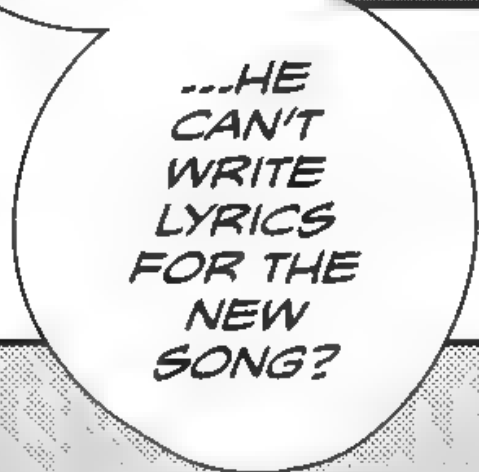
BUT NO
MATTER
HOW
MANY
TIMES IT
HAPPENS
...

...I
STILL
DON'T
KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT I
WANT
TO DO.

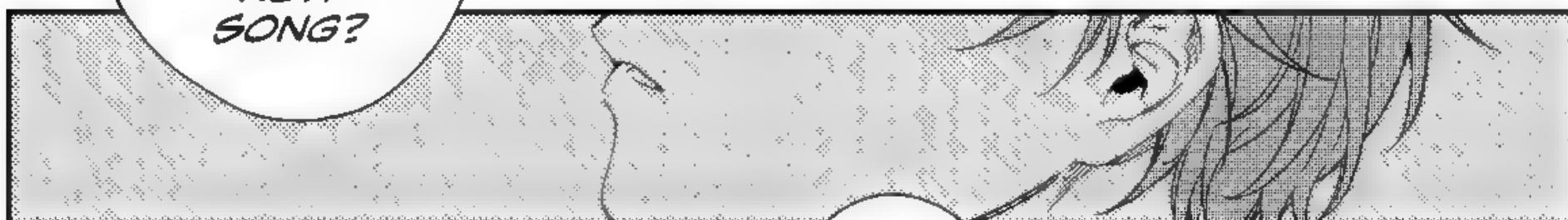
I
DON'T
WANT
TO HURT
HIM,
BUT
WHAT
ELSE?



IS IT MY
FAULT...



...HE
CAN'T
WRITE
LYRICS
FOR THE
NEW
SONG?



THAT
CLOCK...


JOLT



YUKI
HAD ONE
JUST
LIKE IT
IN HIS
ROOM.



AGAIN...



HE CUTS
STRAIGHT
TO THE
HEART
OF THE
MATTER.

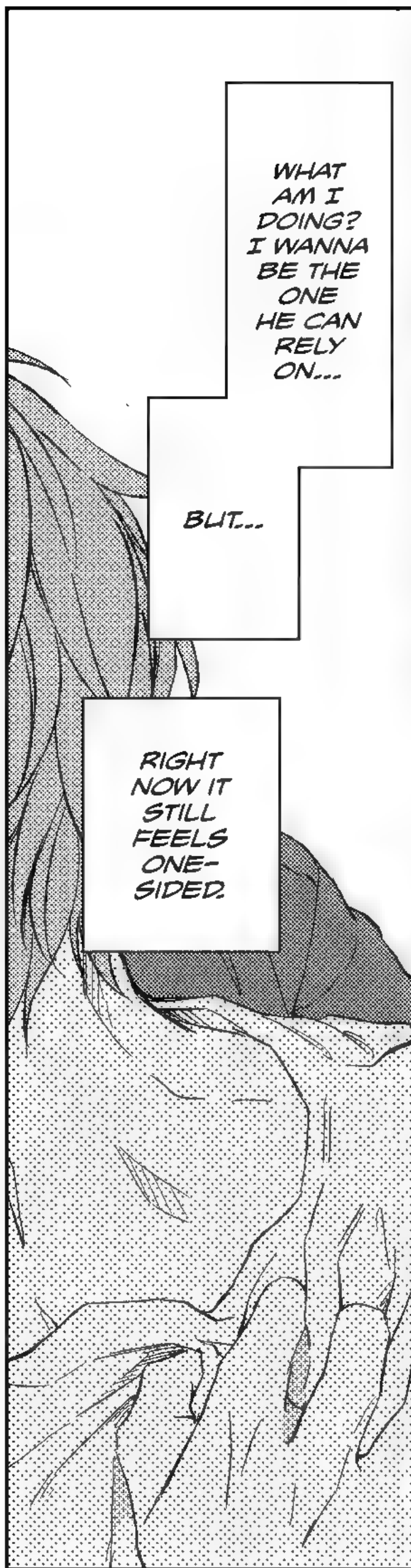


IT
FEELS
LIKE...



DAMN
IT.

HE'S
GOT THAT
LOOK
LIKE HE'S
ABOUT
TO CRY.



WHAT
AM I
DOING?
I WANNA
BE THE
ONE
HE CAN
RELY
ON...

BUT...

RIGHT
NOW IT
STILL
FEELS
ONE-
SIDED.



I DON'T
KNOW
THAT
MUCH...

...
ABOUT
WHAT
WENT
ON
THEN.

SORRY.

THAT
WAS A
WEIRD
THING...

...TO
SAY.

NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT!

HEY,
LISTEN—



BUT WHEN
YOU'RE
WITH ME,
I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO FEEL LIKE
YOU HAVE SIT
THERE AND
SUFFER ON
YOUR OWN.



HOW
CAN I
EXPLAIN
THESE
FEELINGS?

YIKES

...



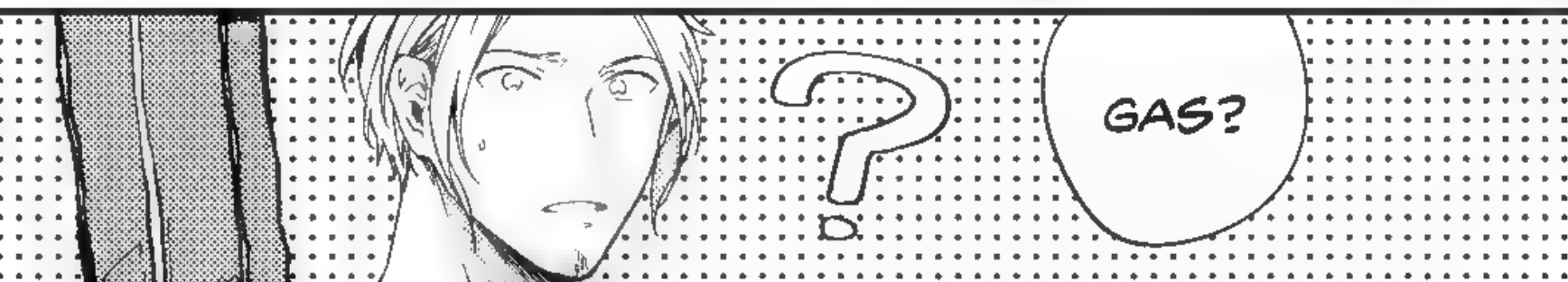




LET'S
PUT
SOME
GAS
IN THE
TANK.

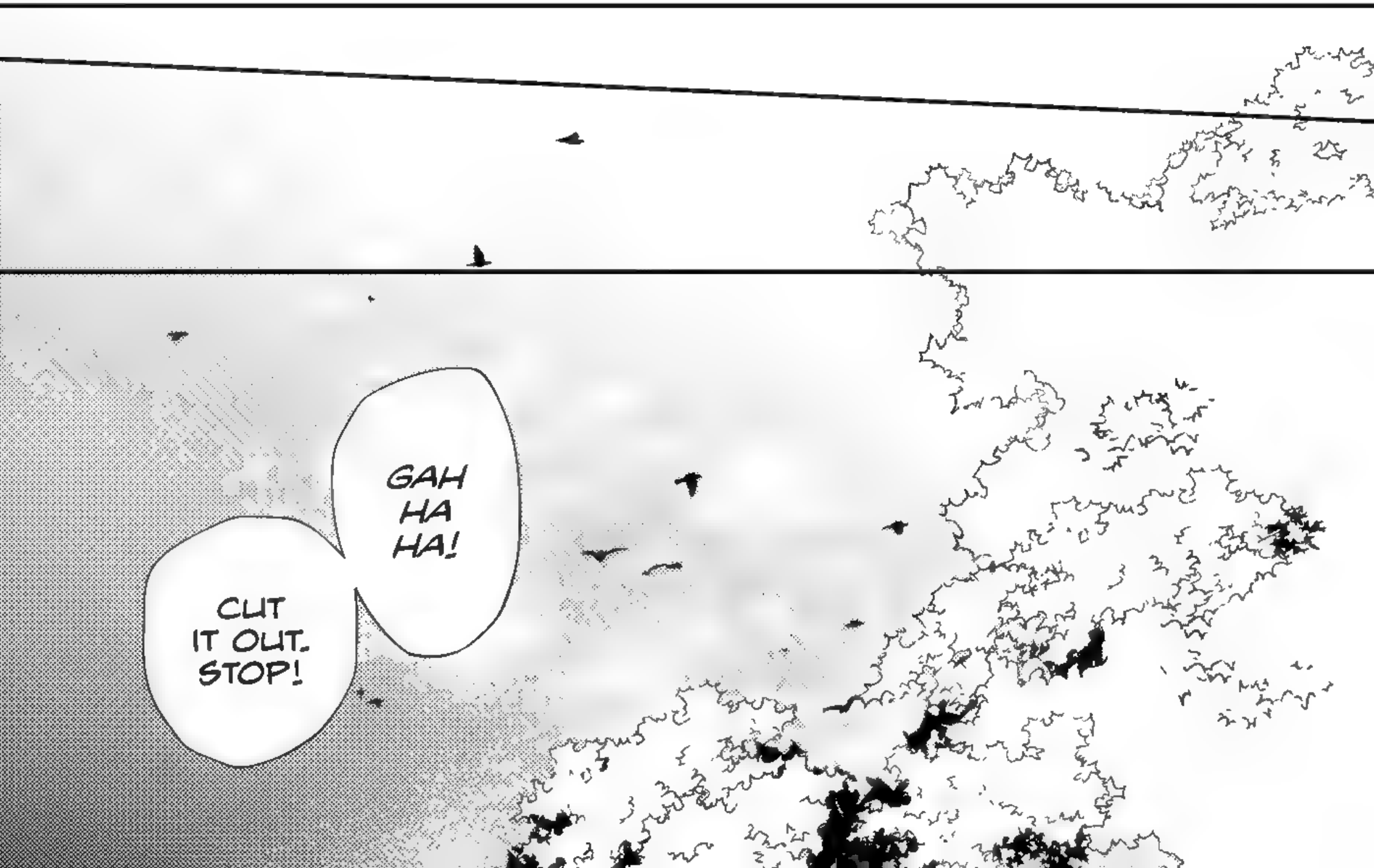


grin



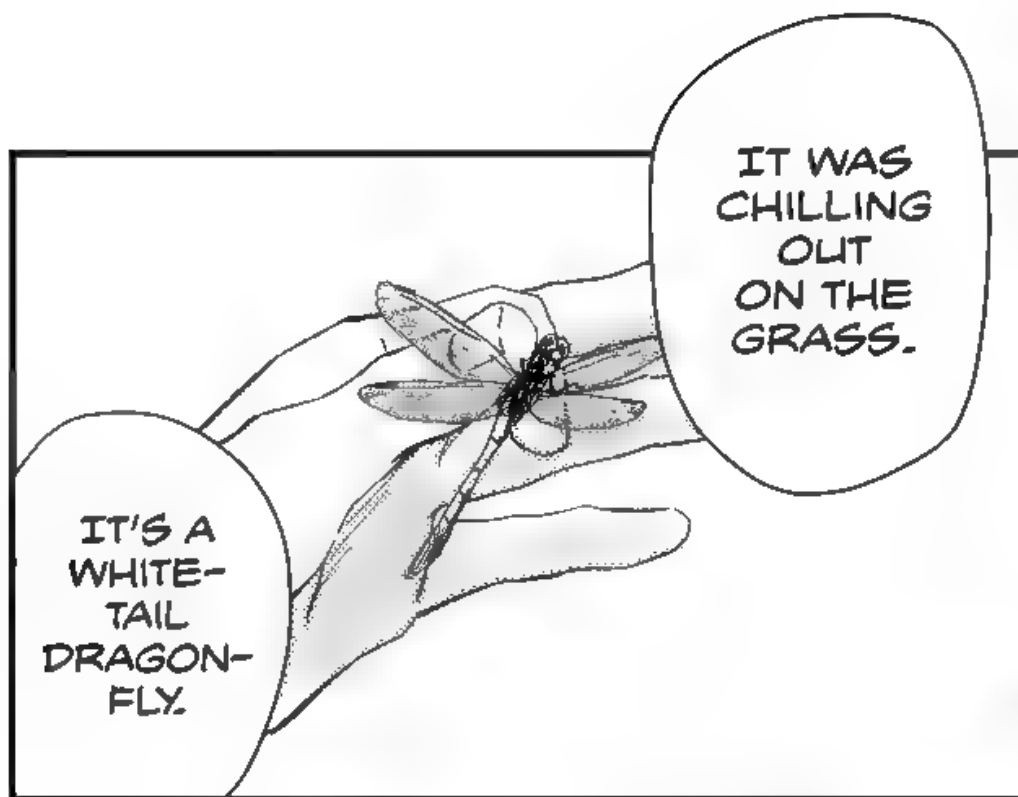
?

GAS?



CUT
IT OUT.
STOP!

GAH
HA
HA!



IT'S A
WHITE-
TAIL
DRAGON-
FLY.

IT WAS
CHILLING
OUT
ON THE
GRASS.



PUT IT
BACK
WHERE
YOU
FOUND
IT.

AWW



HOW
DID
YOU
FIND
THAT?!



FLY!

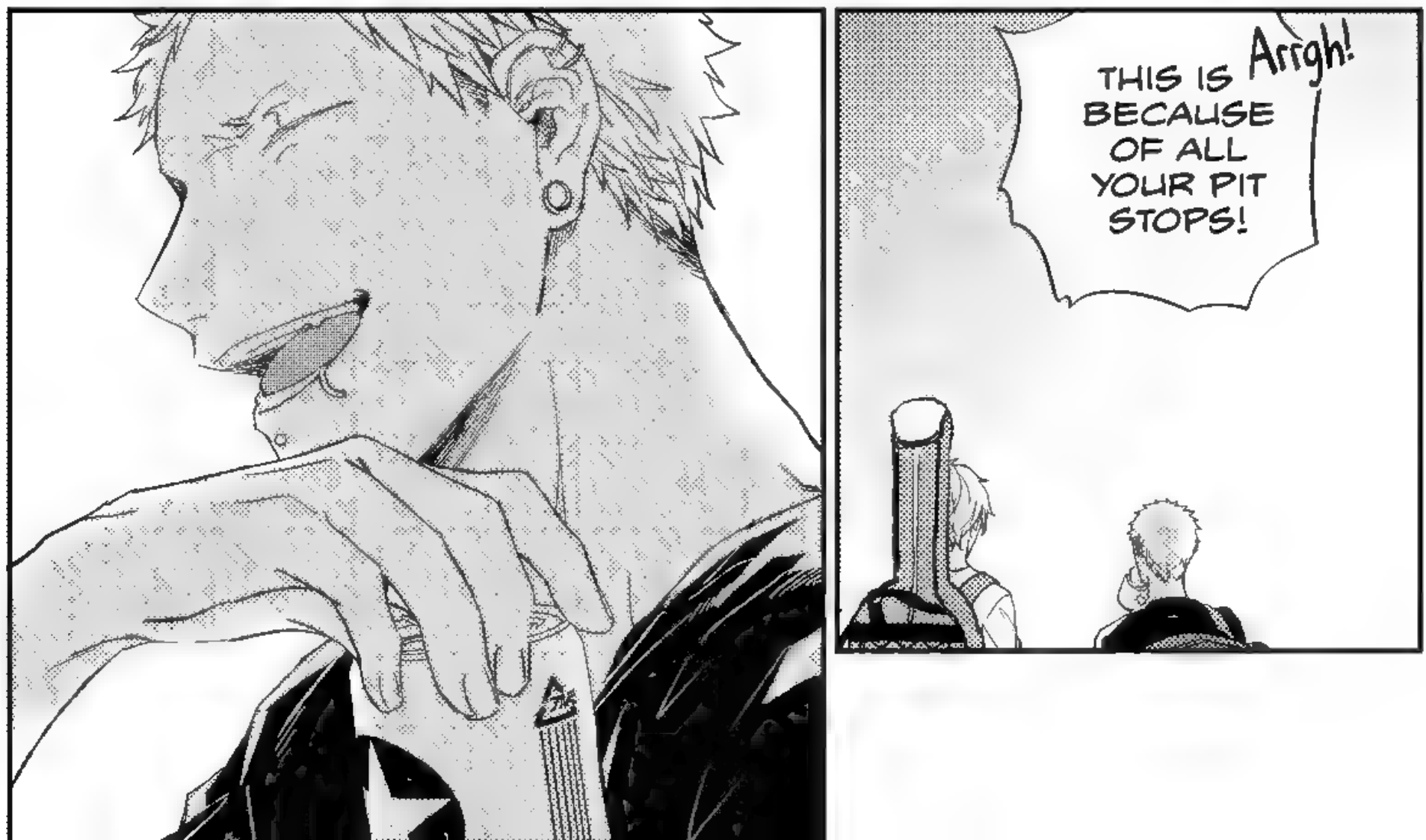
WHAT'RE
YOU, A
GRADE
SCHOOLER
?



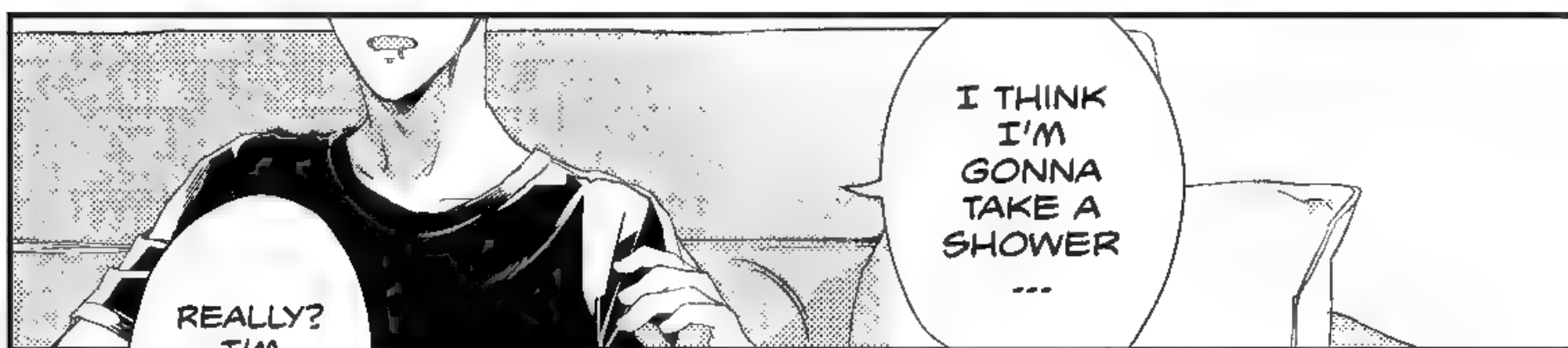
LIKE
JUMBO
DRAGON-
FLIES...

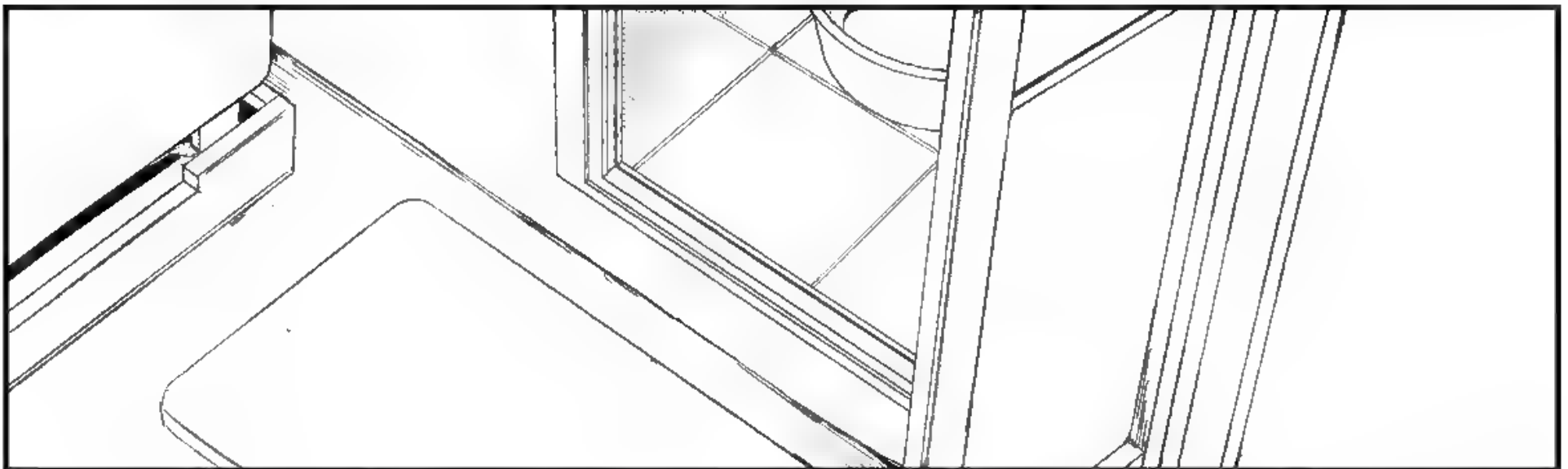
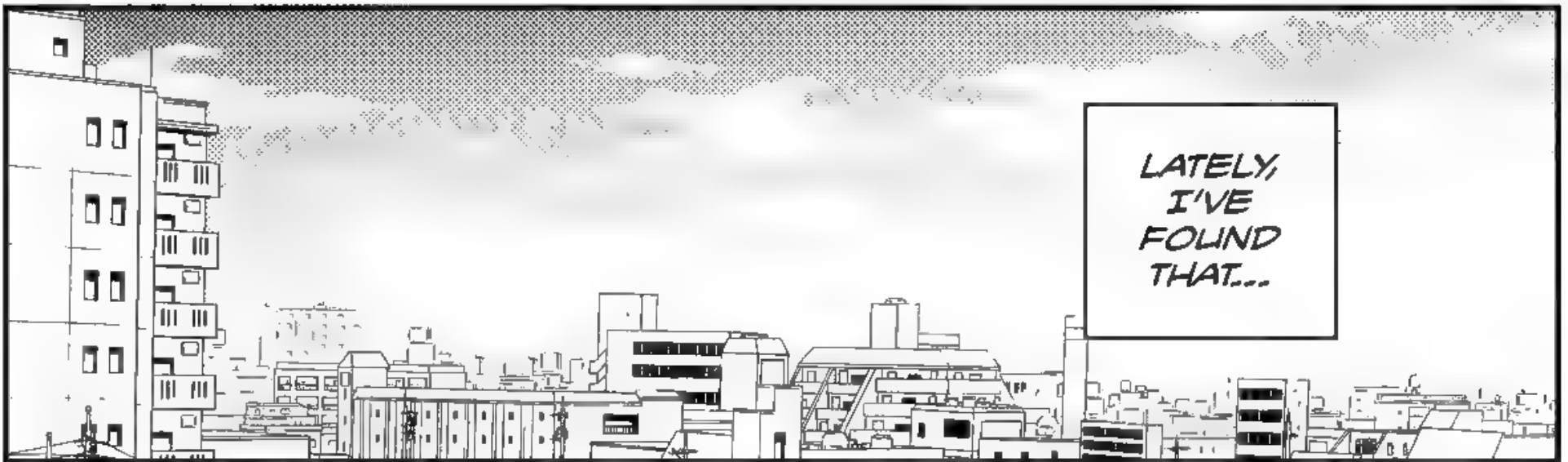
YEAH...
I GUESS
I USED
TO CATCH
THEM A LOT
WHEN I
WAS A KID.

WHAT
BOY
DOESN'T
LIKE
BUGS?









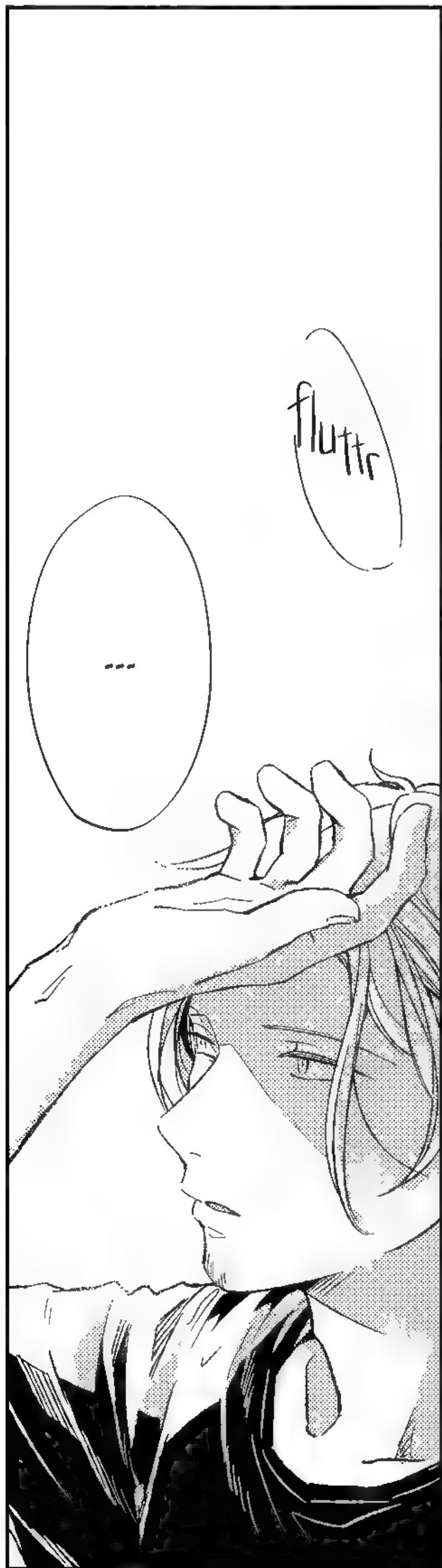


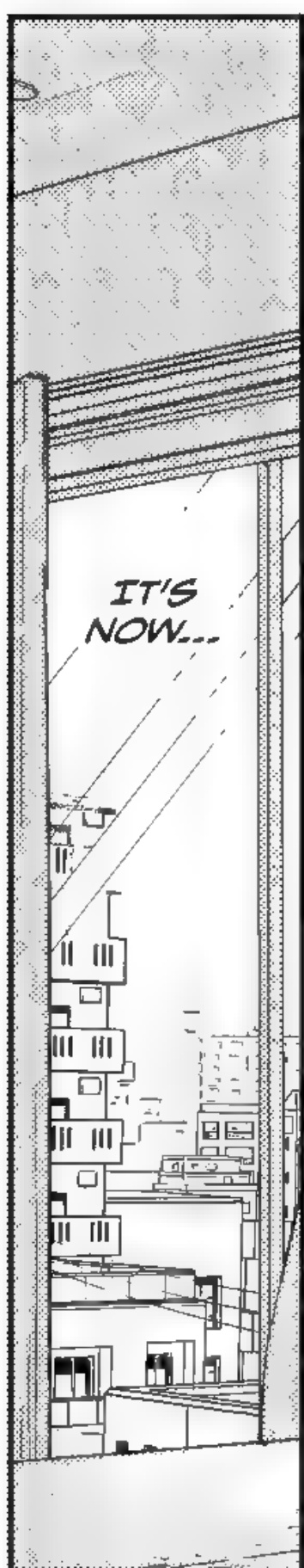
...IS EVEN
MORE FUN
THAN I
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE.



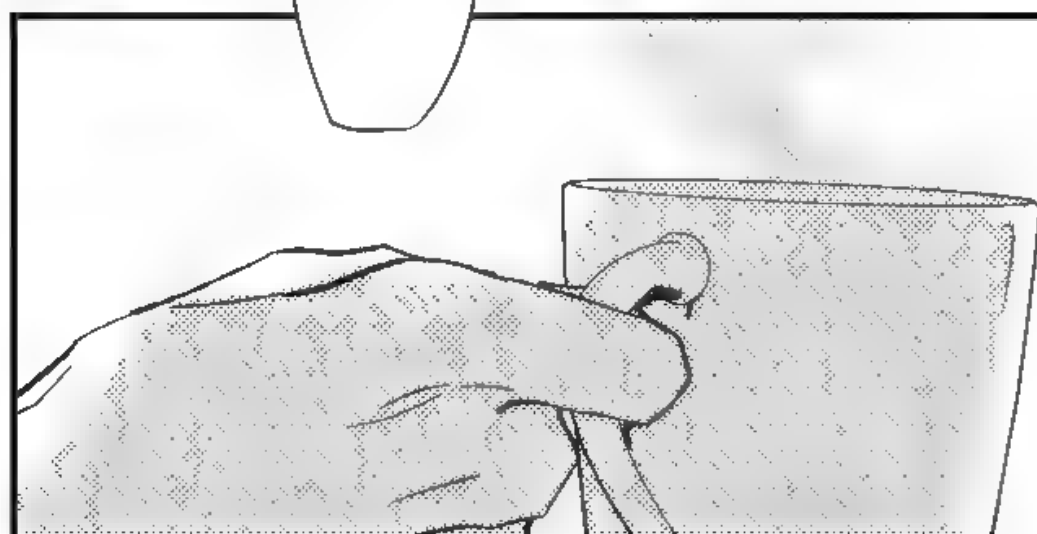
AND IT
FEELS
LIKE...

...THAT
SIMPLE
TRUTH IS
CHANGING
SOMETHING
DEEP
INSIDE ME.





SCHOOL
STARTED
UP
AGAIN
FOR
LIENOYAMA
AND
MAFLIYU.





MORNING.

...
SEPTEMBER,
AND WE'RE
MOVING INTO
THE FALL
SEASON.



ANOTHER
THING
THAT'S
CHANGED...

...IS THAT
LATELY
AKIHIKO
HAS SEEMED
KIND OF
QUIET AND
DISTANT.
AND I DON'T
KNOW WHY.





chapter 24

given



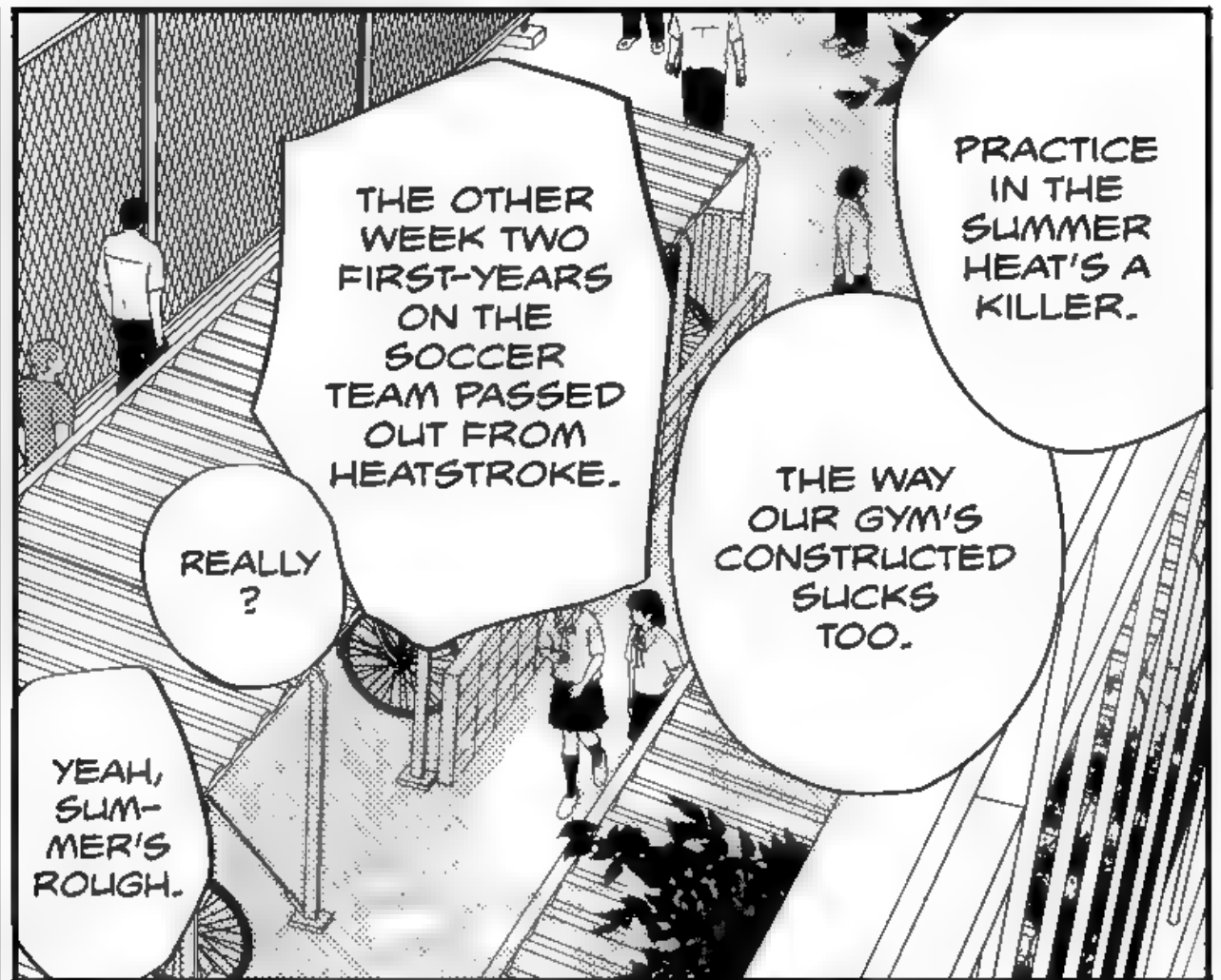


YUP.

YOU'VE GOT THAT FESTIVAL CONTEST THING COMING UP, RIGHT?

IS IT LIKE A SPORTS TOURNAMENT? YOU'RE COMPETING AGAINST OTHER BANDS?

PRETTY MUCH, YEAH.



THE OTHER WEEK TWO FIRST-YEARS ON THE SOCCER TEAM PASSED OUT FROM HEATSTROKE.

REALLY?

YEAH, SUMMER'S ROUGH.

PRACTICE IN THE SUMMER HEAT'S A KILLER.

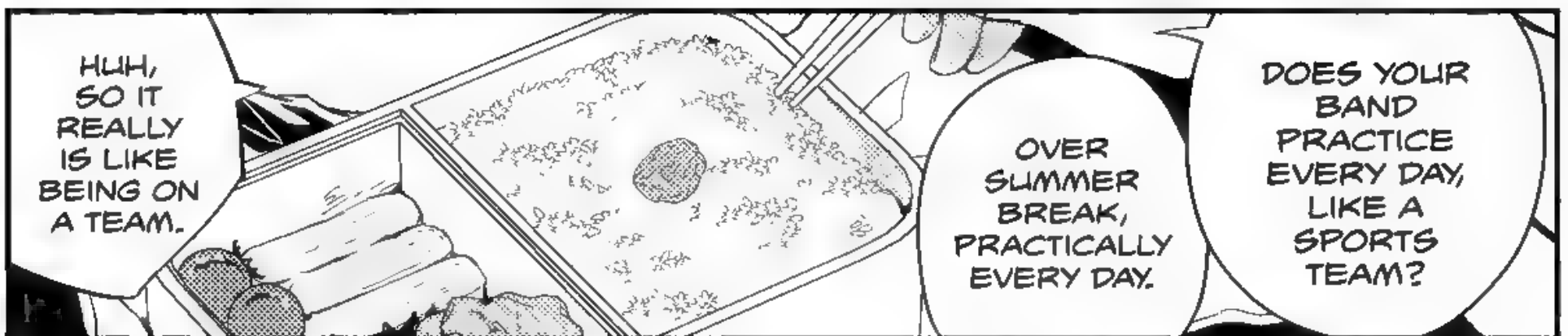
THE WAY OUR GYM'S CONSTRUCTED SUCKS TOO.



IT'S A LOT COOLER THAN THE GYM.

UGH, SO JELLY

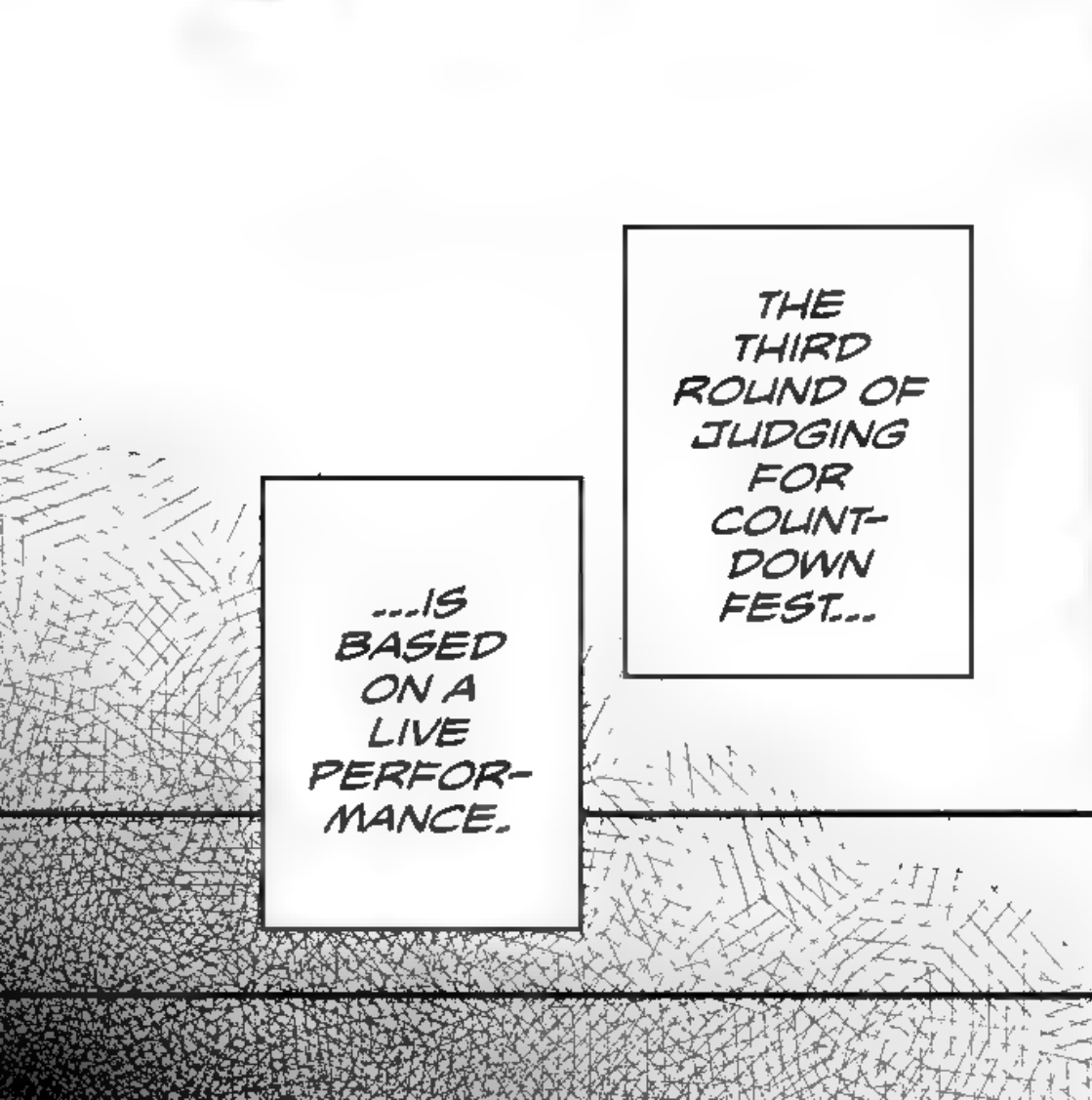
WHAT ABOUT THE BAND STUDIO?



HUH, SO IT REALLY IS LIKE BEING ON A TEAM.

OVER SUMMER BREAK, PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY.

DOES YOUR BAND PRACTICE EVERY DAY, LIKE A SPORTS TEAM?



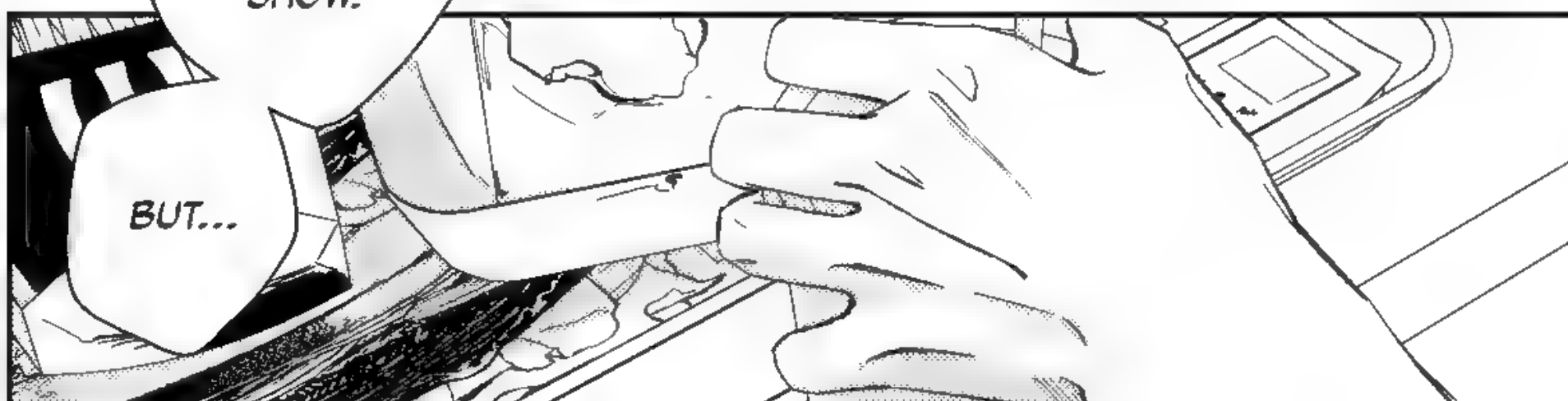
...IS BASED ON A LIVE PERFORMANCE.

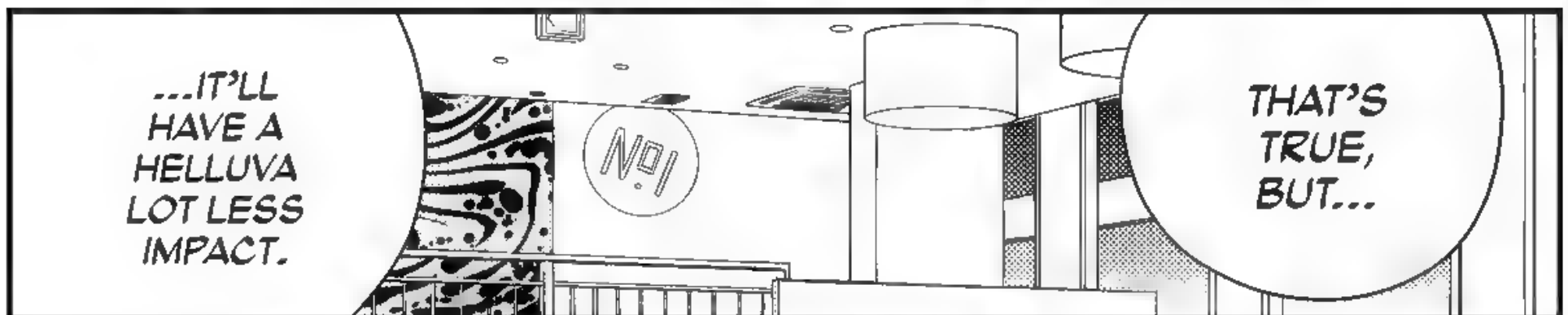
THE THIRD ROUND OF JUDGING FOR COUNT-DOWN FEST...



NEXT MONTH

WHEN IS THE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULED FOR?





THIS
IS OUR
CHANCE,
SO I SAY
WE GO
ON THE
ATTACK.

I THINK
WE CAN
GO A LOT
FURTHER.

ANYWAY,
ABOUT
THE
LYRICS.

C-
COOL
...?!!

WOW,
THAT
SOUNDED
SO COOL!

LIKE,
SUPER-
COOL!

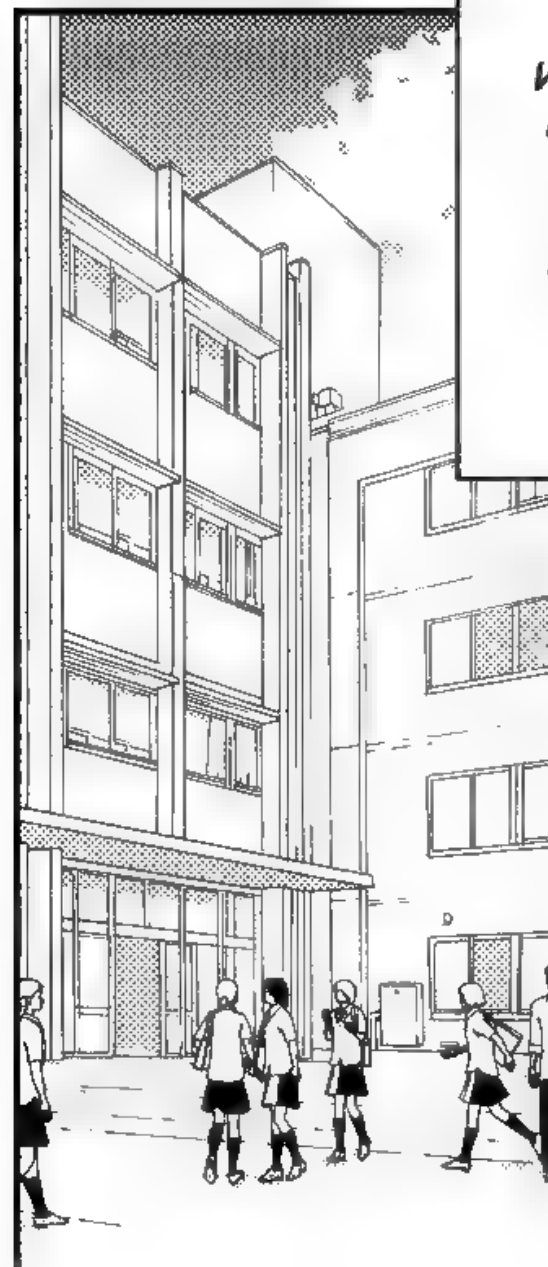
OKAY,
STOP.

YEAH,
IT WAS
REALLY
COOL!

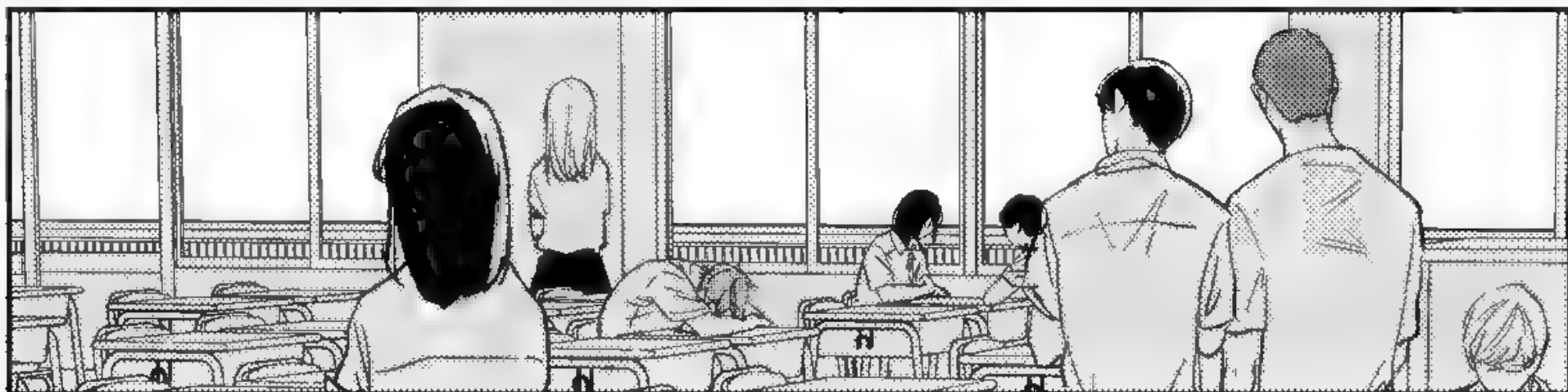
?!



THAT
BEING
SAID...



WITHOUT
LYRICS,
WE
DON'T
HAVE A
SONG.



...MAFLYU
MENTIONED
BEFORE THAT
HE WANTED
TO WRITE
"A DIFFERENT
KIND OF SONG"
THIS TIME.



BUT IT
MAKES ME
WONDER
IF HE'S GOT
WRITER'S
BLOCK
AND IT'S
WEARING
HIM OUT.



LATELY
HE'S
BEEN
SLEEPING
DURING
LUNCH
BREAK...

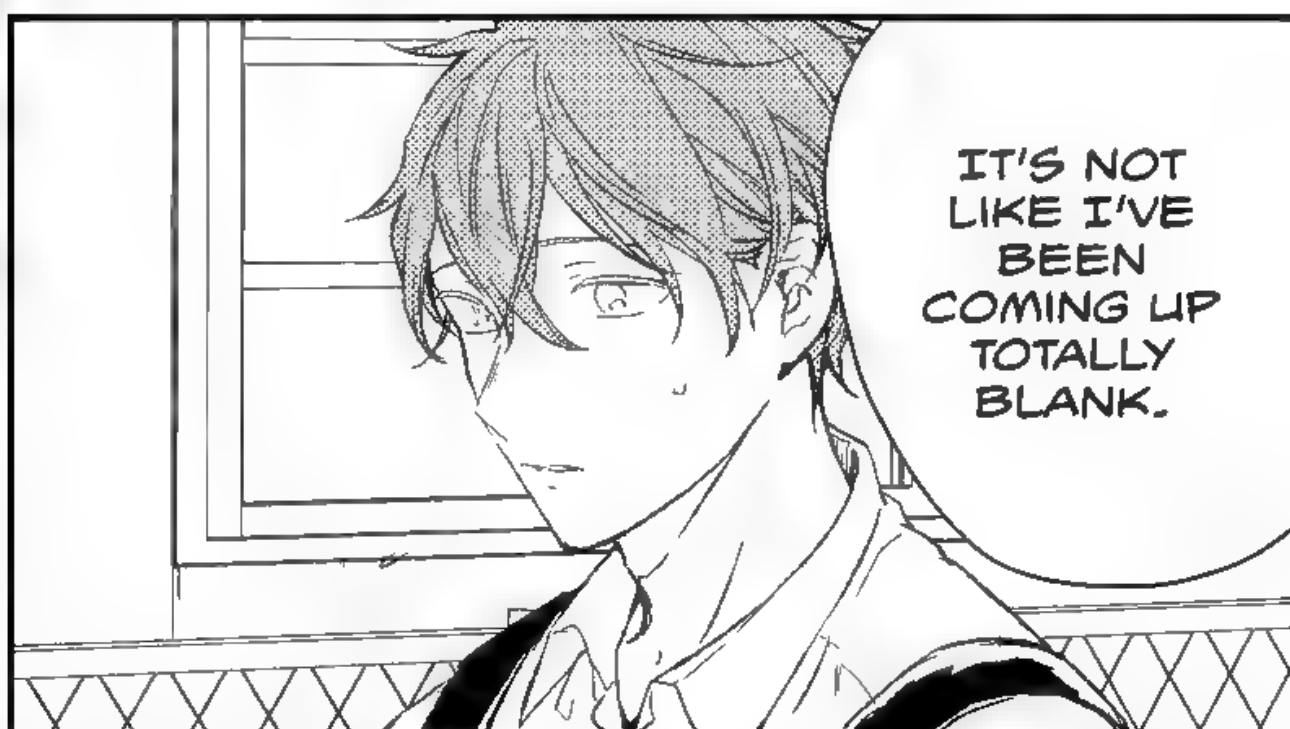
WELL,
HE'S
ALWAYS
LIKED
TO NAP.



MAKING A
DIFFERENT
KIND OF
SONG...



...PROBABLY
NEEDS A
DIFFERENT
KIND OF
APPROACH,
RIGHT?





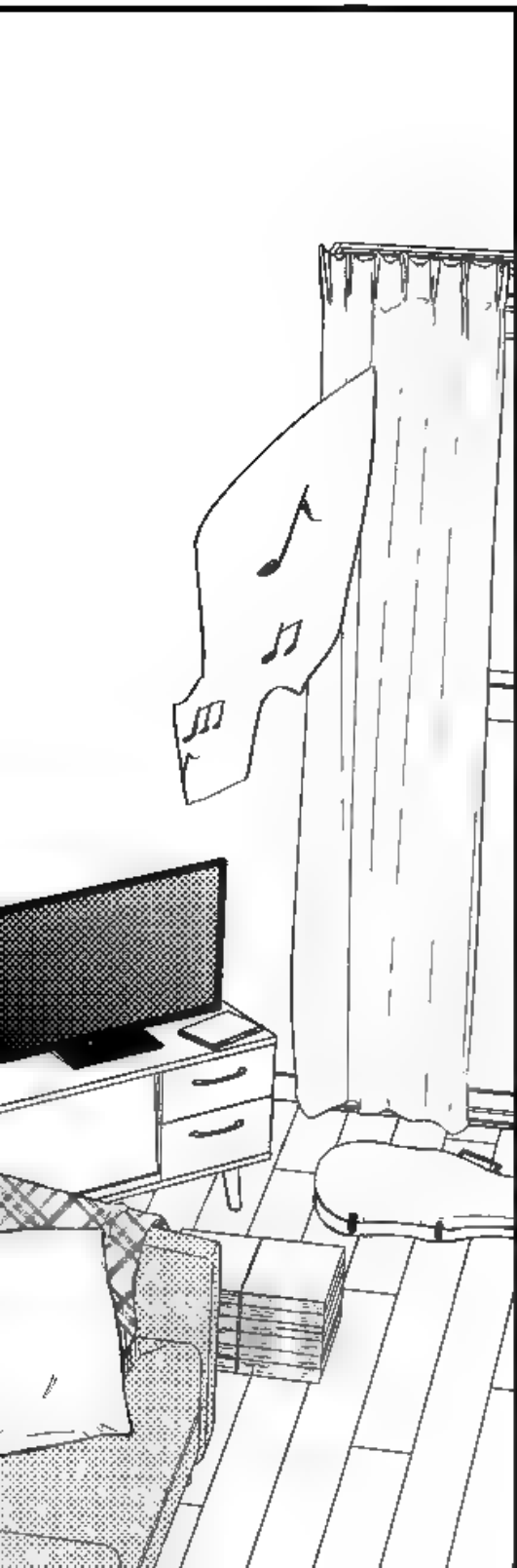
THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
GO LOOK
FOR IT?



MAFLYU,
YOU'RE THE
TYPE WHO
USES HIS OWN
EMOTIONS AS
CREATIVE
FUEL.

BUT YOU
ALSO DRAW
ON THE
INFLUENCES
AND
EXPERIENCES
OF THOSE
AROUND YOU.
SO IF YOU FEEL
LIKE YOU'RE
MISSING
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
...

...WHY
DON'T
YOU GO
OUT AND
LOOK
FOR IT?







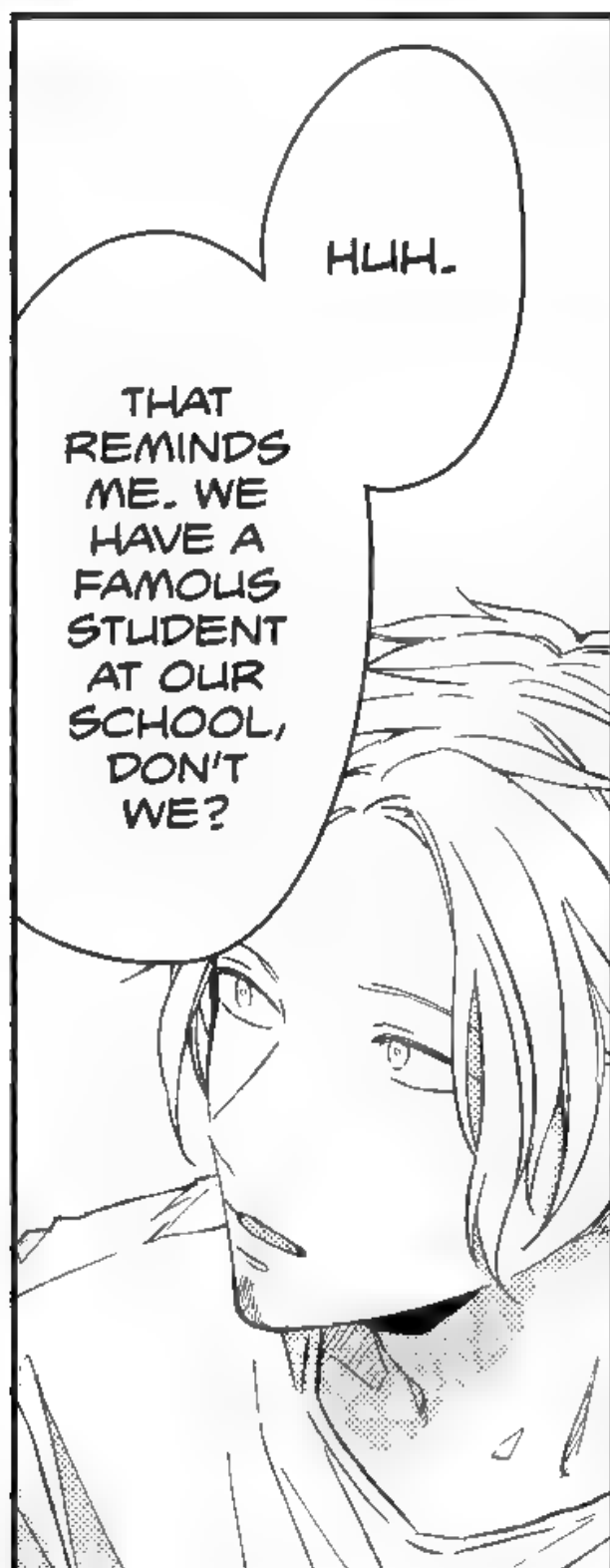
REALLY?
SINCE
YOU'VE
BEEN
HERE...

...I'VE
SEEN YOU
PRACTICE
VIOLIN
MORE THAN
DRUMS.



NOT
COMPARED
TO THE
HARD-CORE
STUDENTS
...

I'M
NOT.



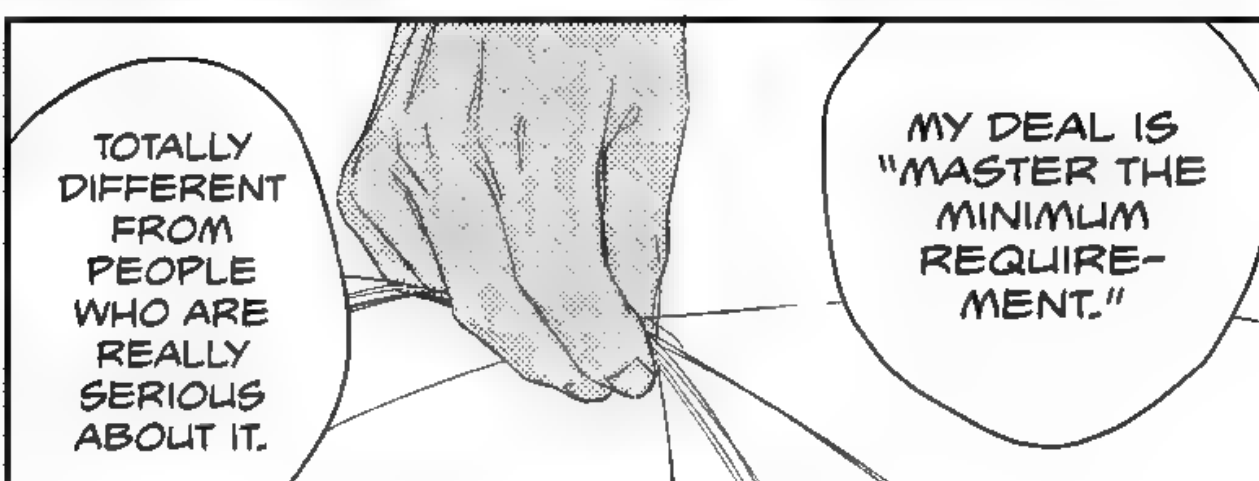
HLH.

THAT
REMINDS
ME. WE
HAVE A
FAMOUS
STUDENT
AT OUR
SCHOOL,
DON'T
WE?



AND I
DO HAVE
ASSIGNED
MUSIC TO
COMPLETE.

WELL,
IF I DON'T
PRACTICE
A CERTAIN
AMOUNT,
I'LL GET
RUSTY.



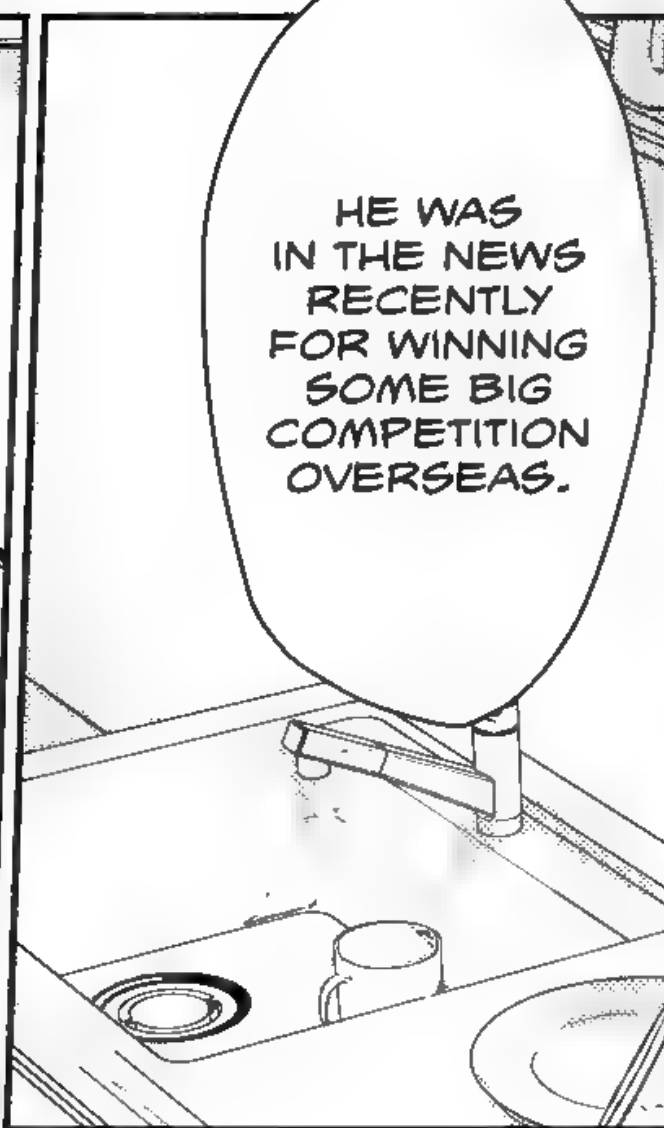
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM
PEOPLE
WHO ARE
REALLY
SERIOUS
ABOUT IT.

MY DEAL IS
"MASTER THE
MINIMUM
REQUIRE-
MENT."



WHAT'S
HIS
NAME
AGAIN
...?

OH,
RIGHT.



HE WAS
IN THE NEWS
RECENTLY
FOR WINNING
SOME BIG
COMPETITION
OVERSEAS.



A
VIOLINIST.



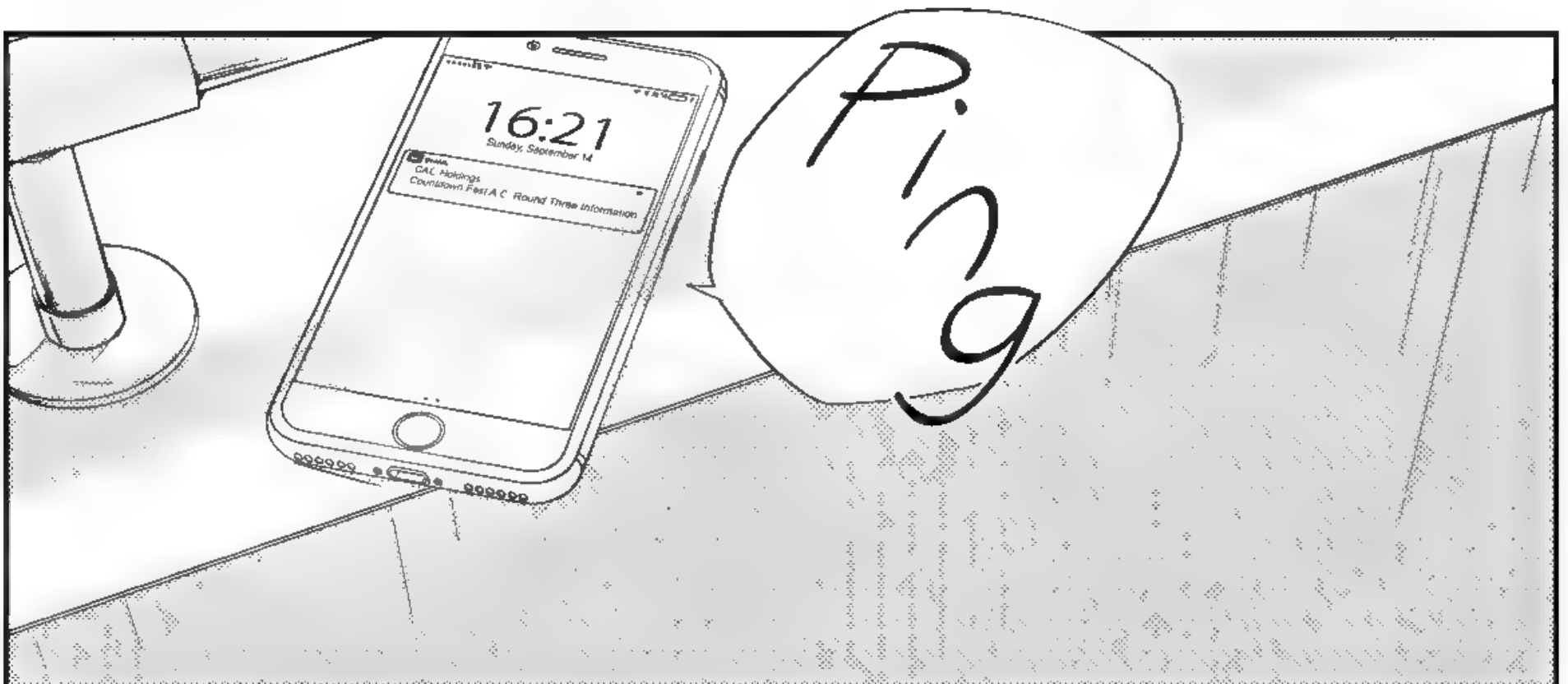
UGETSU
MURATA.













I MADE
SOME
FRIED
CHICKEN.



I
JUST
GOT
THIS
MAIL.

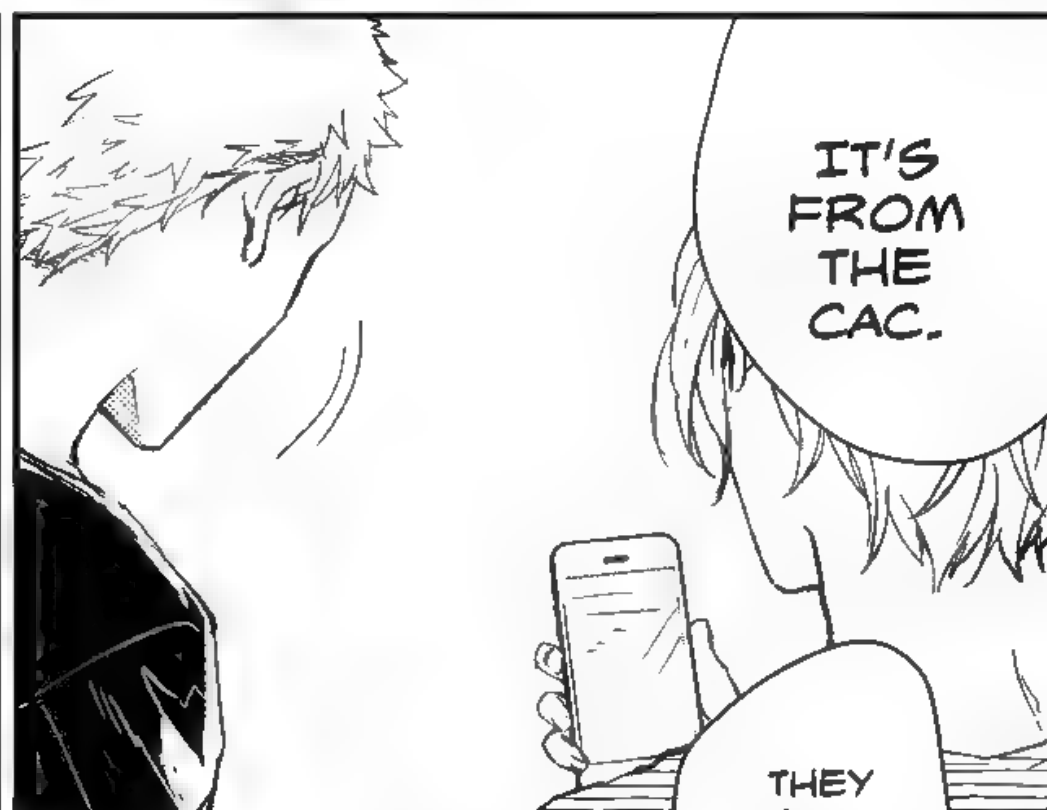
WHAT'S
UP?
YOU'RE
LOOKIN'
SERIOUS.



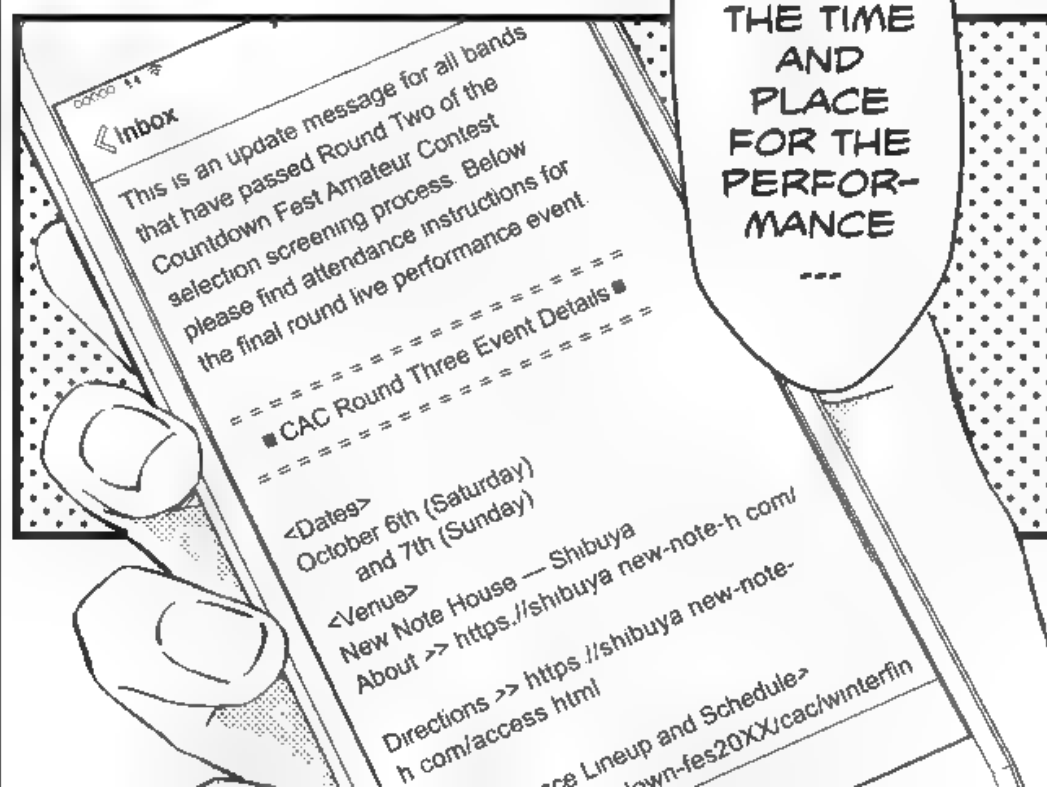
HARUKI!



IT'S
COMING
UP
FAST,
HUH?



IT'S
FROM
THE
CAC.



THEY
SENT
THE TIME
AND
PLACE
FOR THE
PERFORM-
ANCE
...

Inbox

This is an update message for all bands
that have passed Round Two of the
Countdown Fest Amateur Contest
selection screening process. Below
please find attendance instructions for
the final round live performance event.

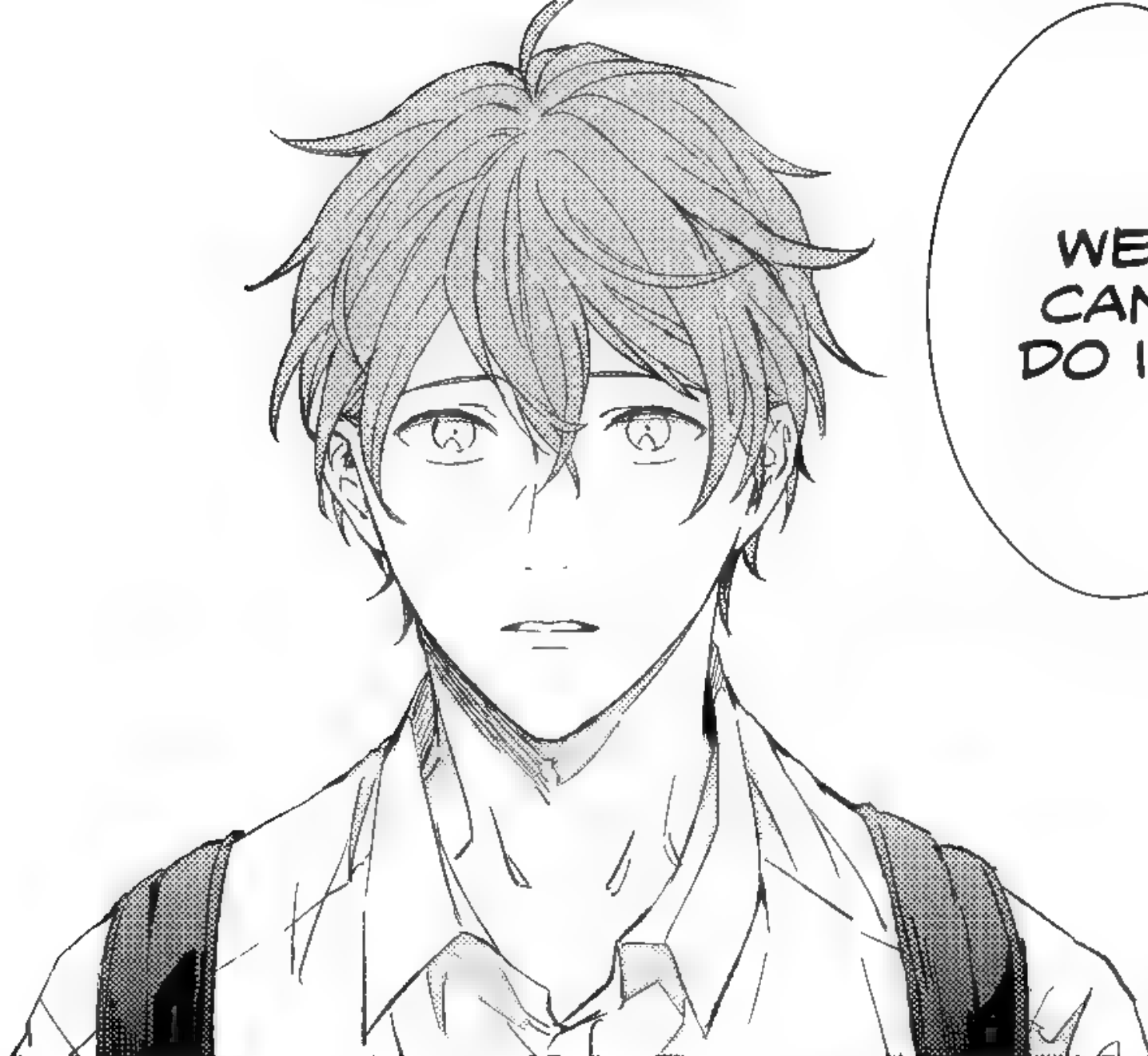
=====
■ CAC Round Three Event Details ■
=====

<Dates>
October 6th (Saturday)
and 7th (Sunday)

<Venue>
New Note House — Shibuya
About >> <https://shibuya-new-note-h.com/>

Directions >> <https://shibuya-new-note-h.com/access.html>
Lineup and Schedule >> <https://shibuya-new-note-h.com/lineup-schedule.html>





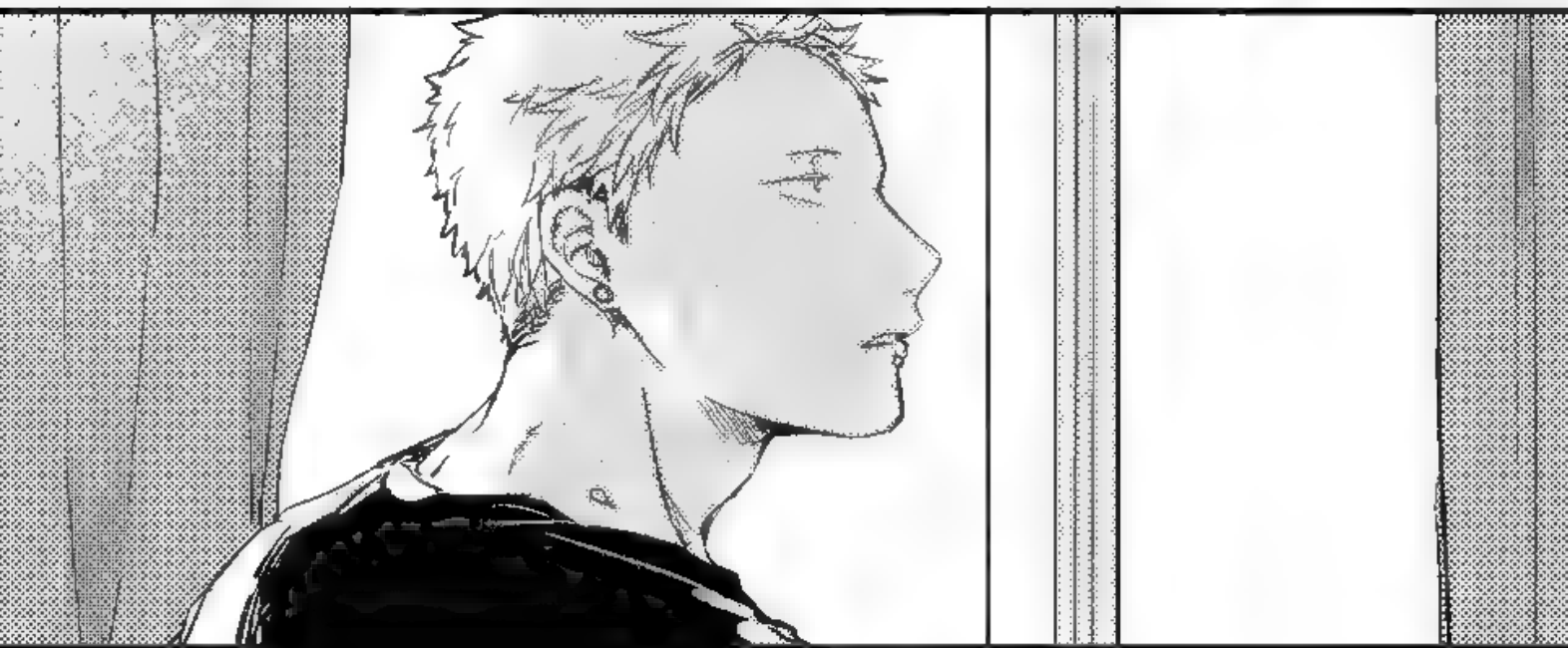
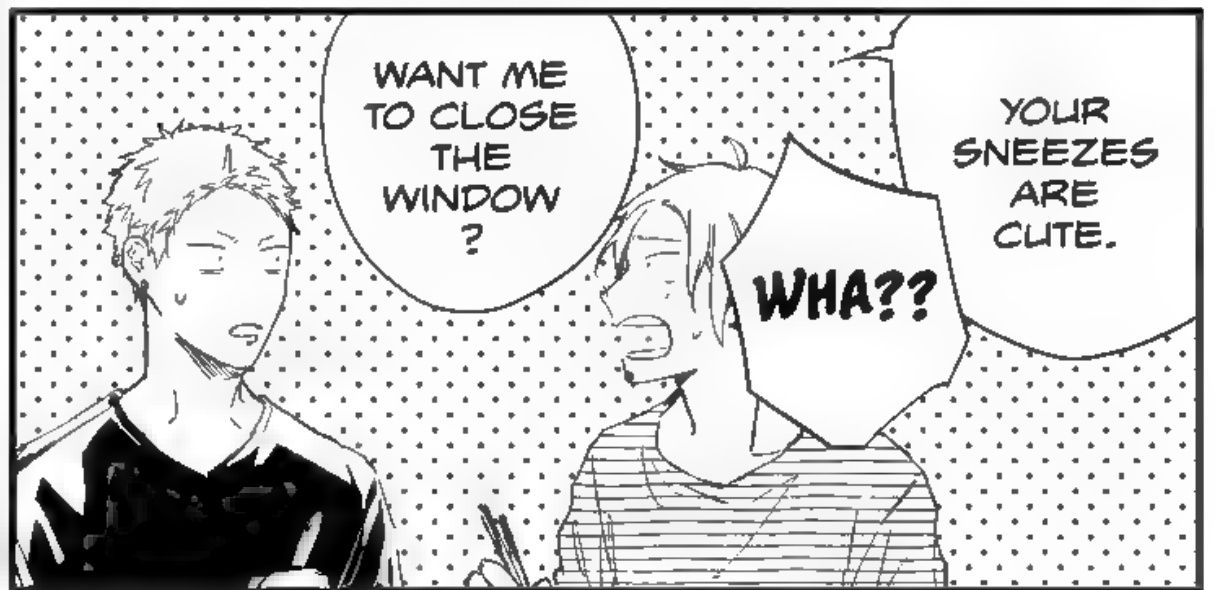
WE
CAN
DO IT.



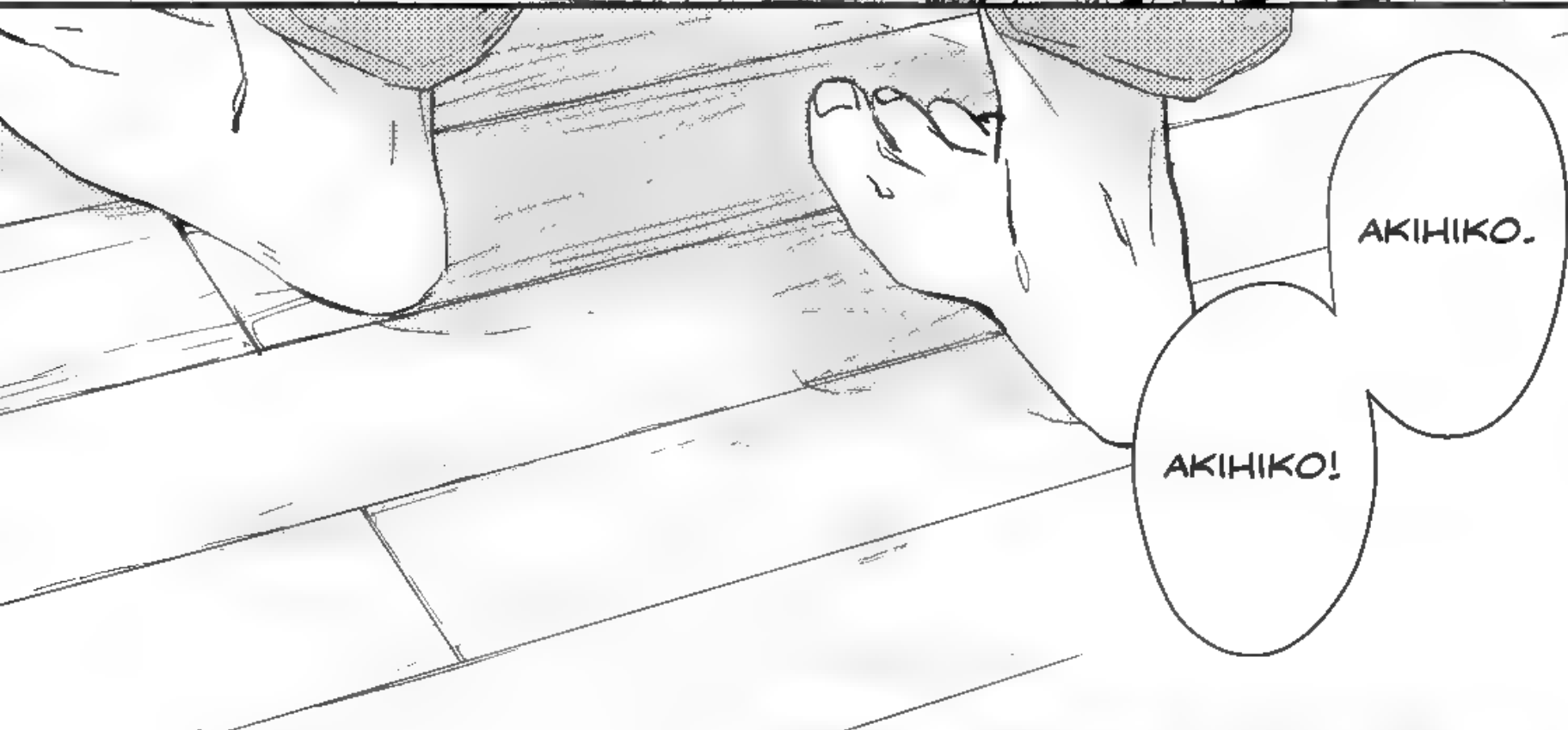
SEPTEM-
BER.

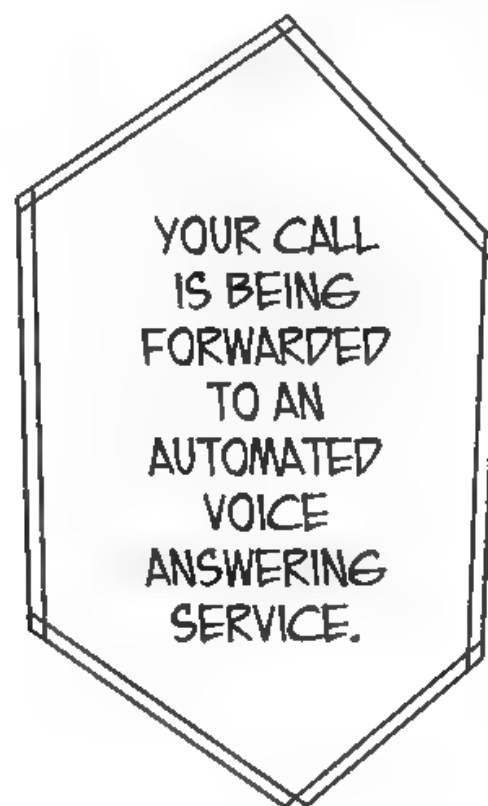
THE DATE
OF THE LIVE
PERFOR-
MANCE
LOOMED
BEFORE US.





FALL
HAD
STARTED
AND
THERE
WAS NO
GOING
BACK.

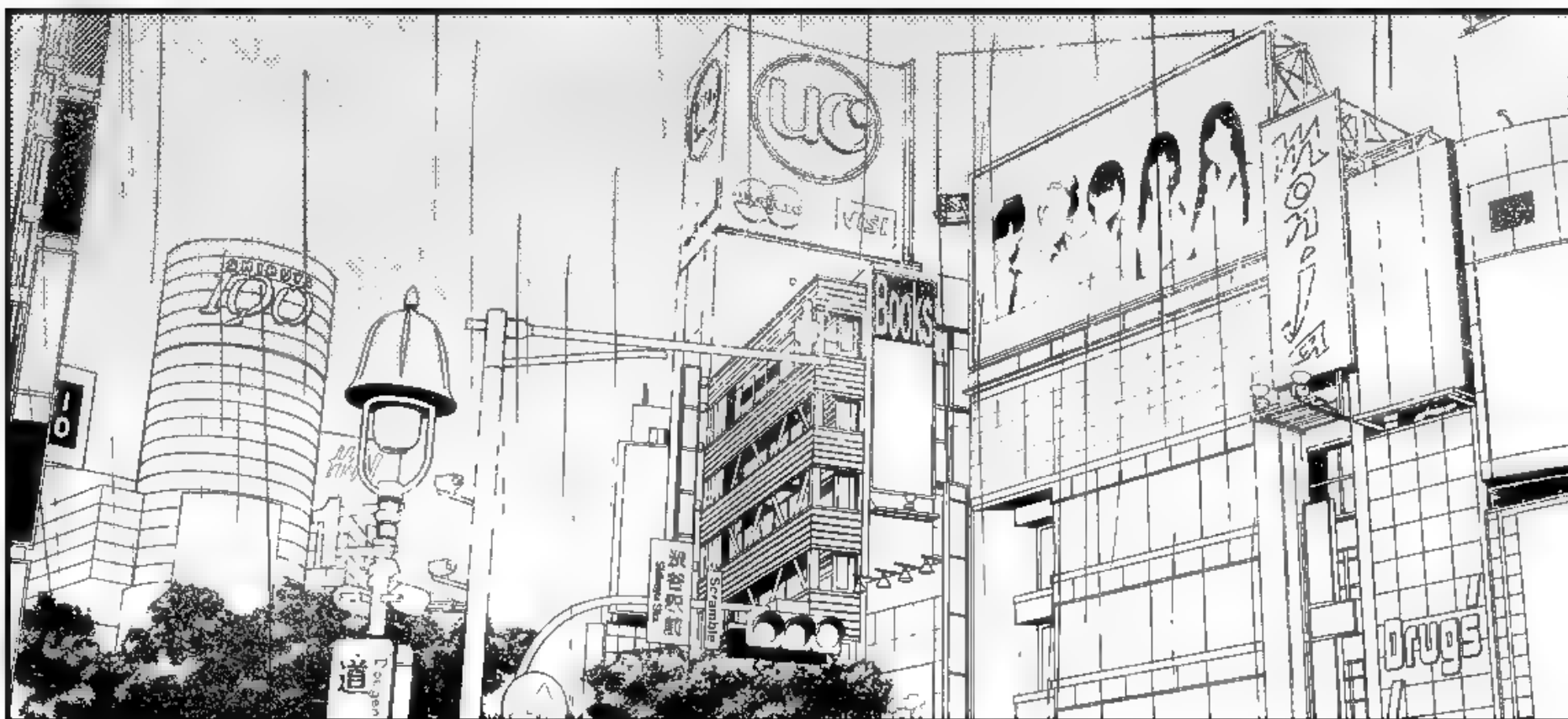


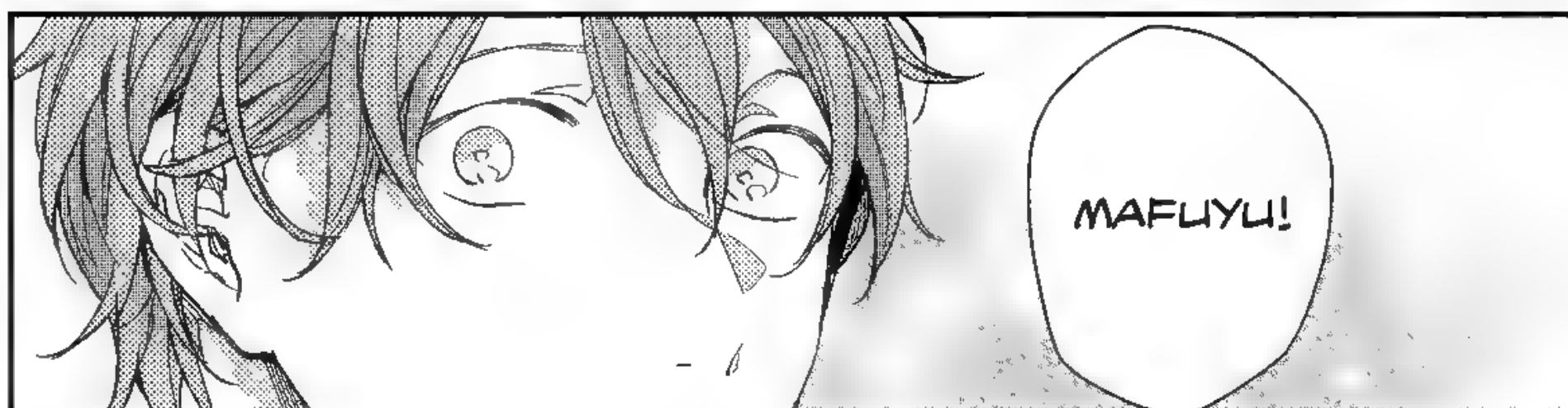


chapter 25

given









BEFORE
WE
KNEW
IT...

HEY,
HIRAGI!



...IT
WAS
OCTOBER.

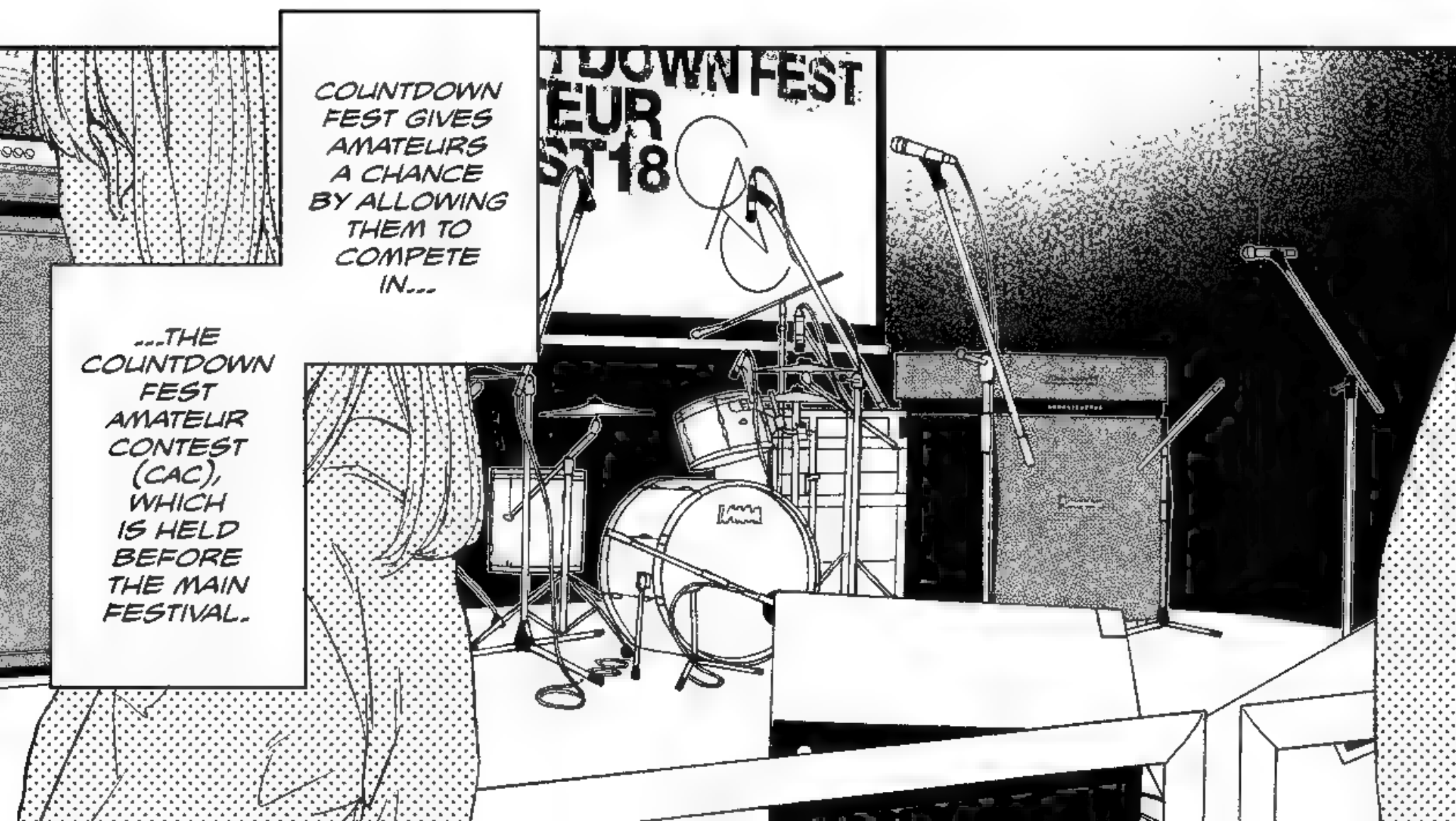


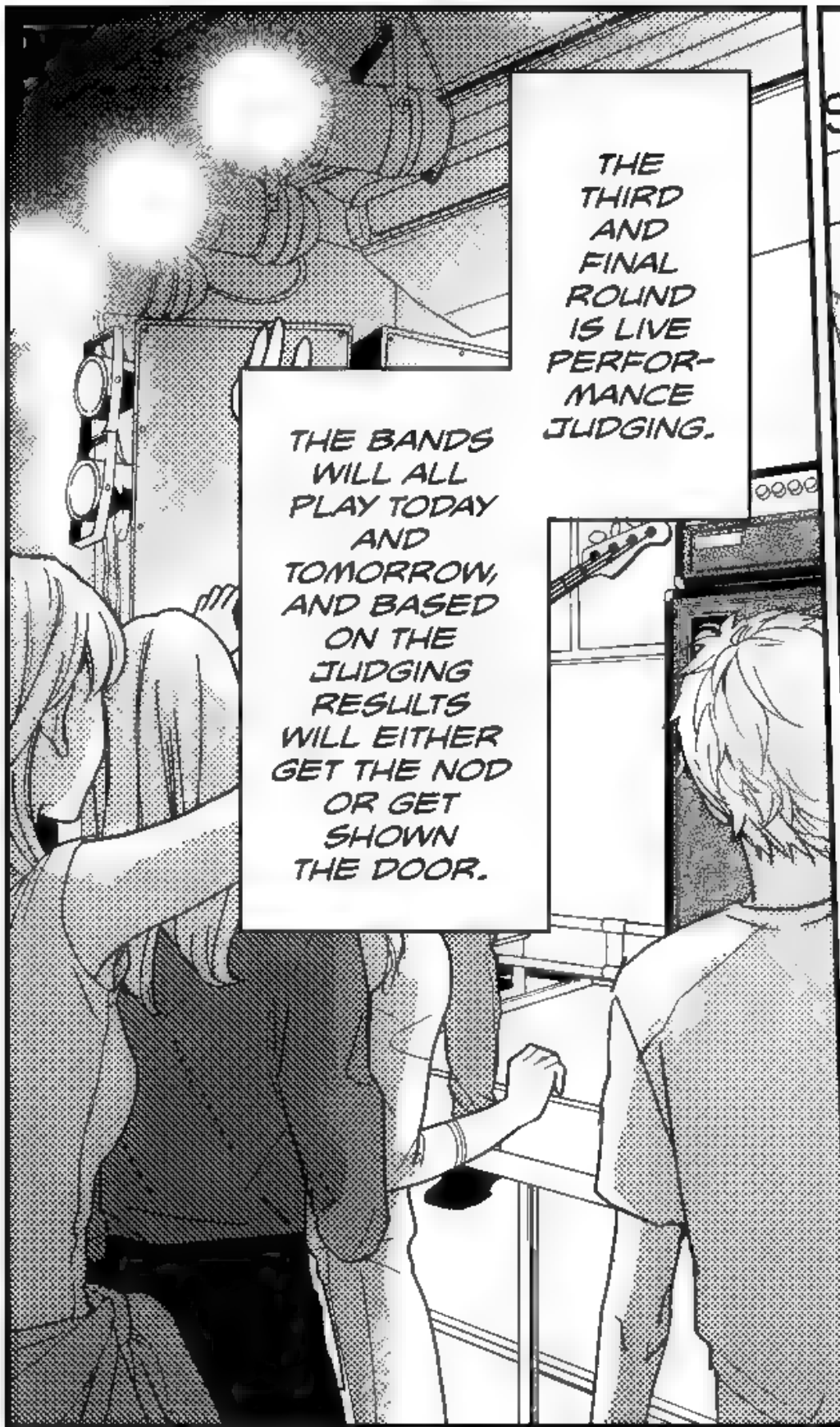
COUNTRY TOWN
AMATEUR
CONTEST 18
DAY.1

AND THE
FIRST DAY
OF THE
LIVE
PERFOR-
MANCE
ROUND.









THE
THIRD
AND
FINAL
ROUND
IS LIVE
PERFORM-
ANCE
JUDGING.

THE BANDS
WILL ALL
PLAY TODAY
AND
TOMORROW,
AND BASED
ON THE
JUDGING
RESULTS
WILL EITHER
GET THE NOD
OR GET
SHOWN
THE DOOR.

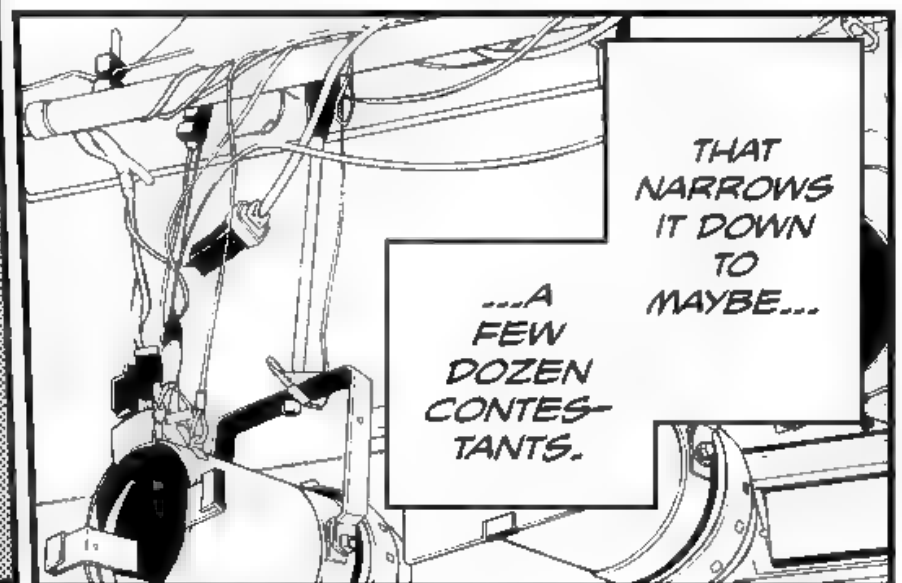
Second Round

given

THE FIRST
ROUND
OF
AUDITIONS
IS A
SCREENING
OF
APPLICATION
MATERIALS.

THE
SECOND
ROUND
IS
OPEN
VOTING
ONLINE.

this spring, with an
mments
XXV
young set of
up and coming
@XXXX



THAT
NARROWS
IT DOWN
TO
MAYBE...

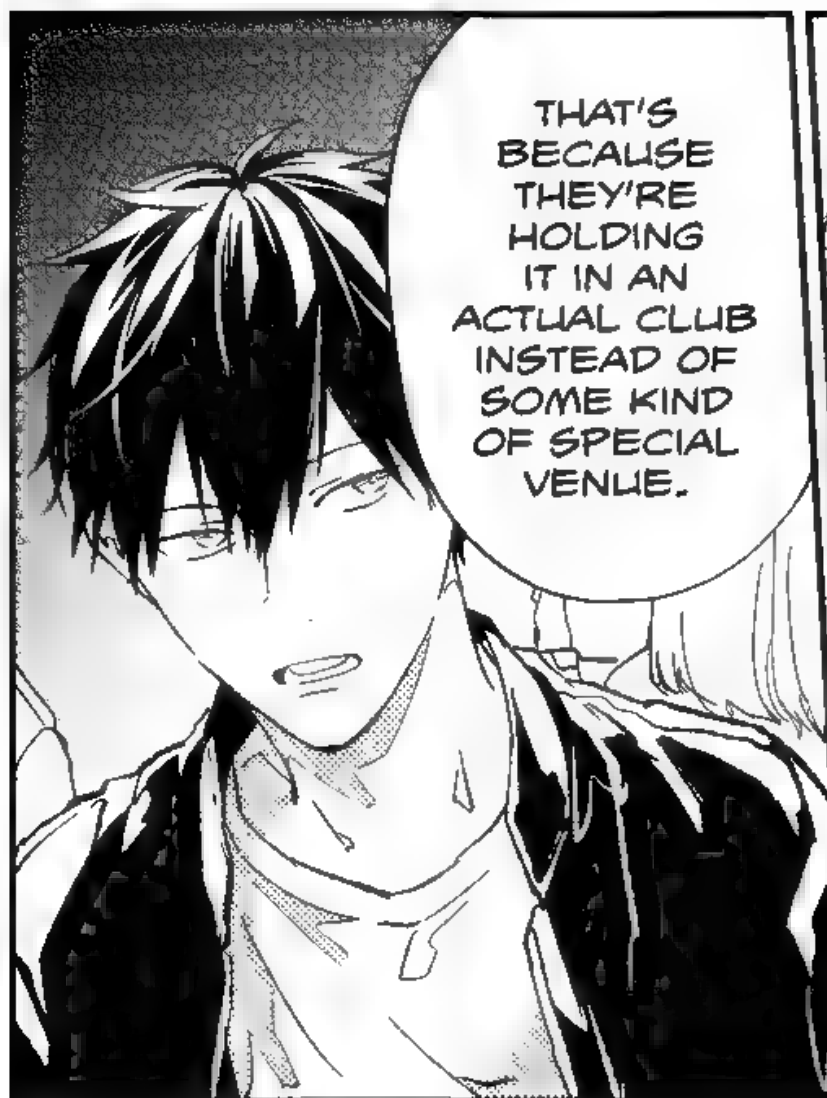
...A
FEW
DOZEN
CONTEST-
TANTS.



THIS
PLACE
IS
PACKED.



ANYWAY...



THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE HOLDING IT IN AN ACTUAL CLUB INSTEAD OF SOME KIND OF SPECIAL VENUE.



NO, TODAY'S MY FIRST TIME.

HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS KIND OF COMPETITION BEFORE, UENOYAMA?



US TOO, BUT THE VIBE IS MORE LIKE PLAYING AT A NORMAL SHOW THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE.



THEY DO THAT KIND OF THING TOO, APPARENTLY.

TODAY THEY'RE GONNA GO WITH AN AUDIENCE VOTE.

...I SORT OF IMAGINED IT'D BE LIKE ONE OF THOSE REALITY TV SHOWS.

SINCE THEY'RE JUDGING A LIVE PERFORMANCE...



WHOA...

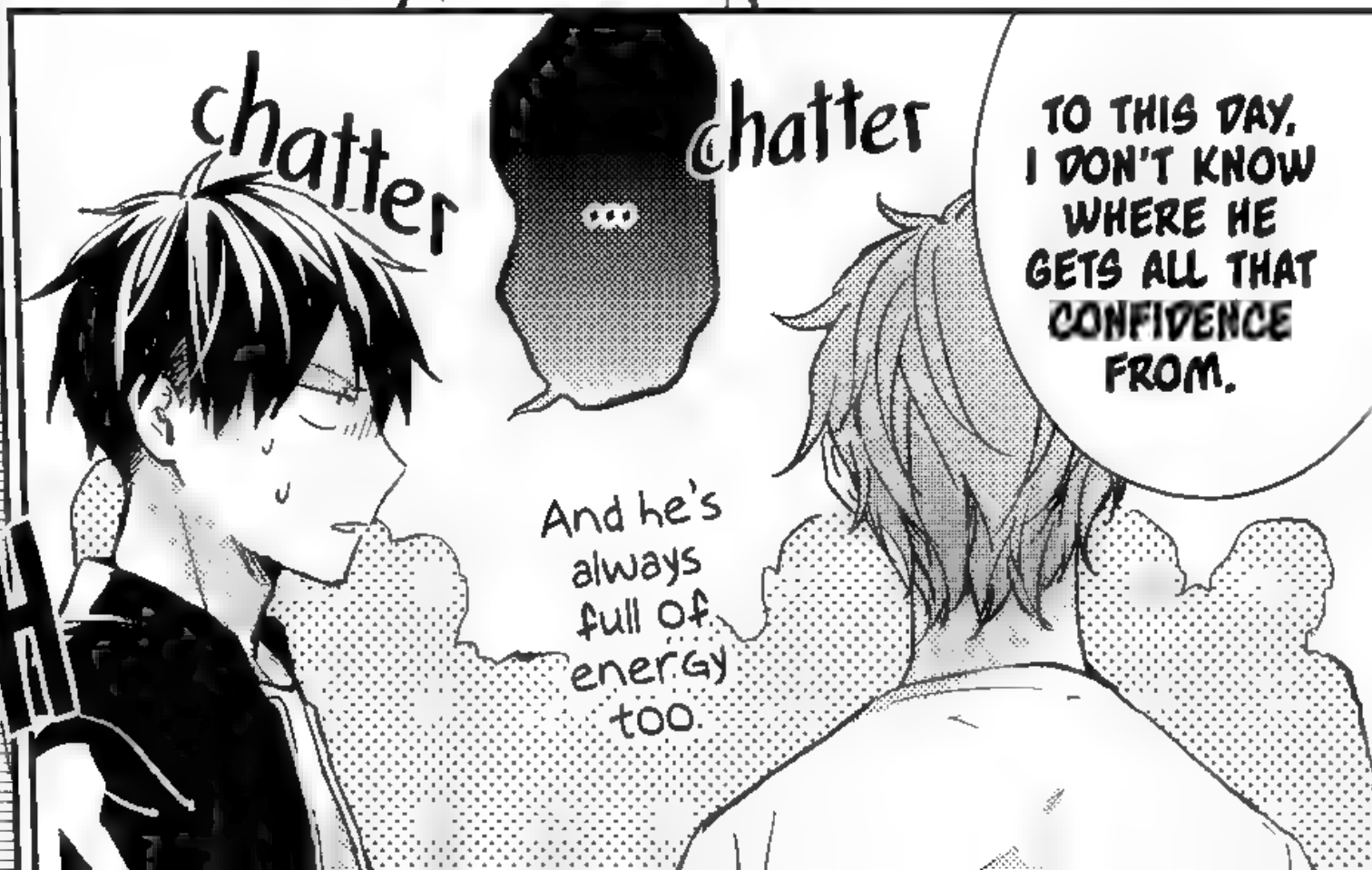
THAT'S HOW THE VOTES ARE TAKEN, AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY CALCULATE THE RESULTS RIGHT AWAY.

ALL THREE OF YOU HAVING THE EXACT SAME REACTION AT THE EXACT SAME TIME IS KINDA CREEPY.



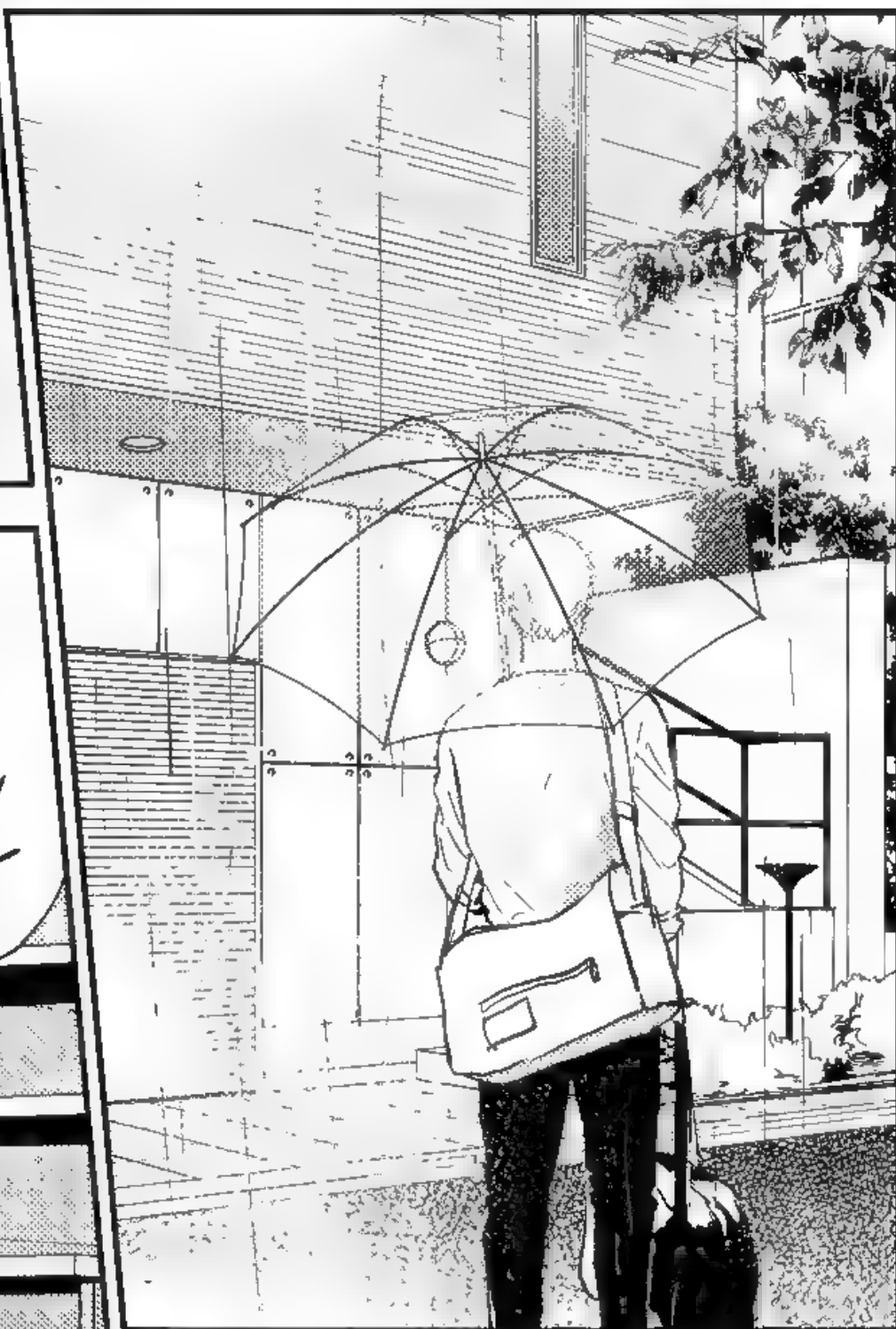
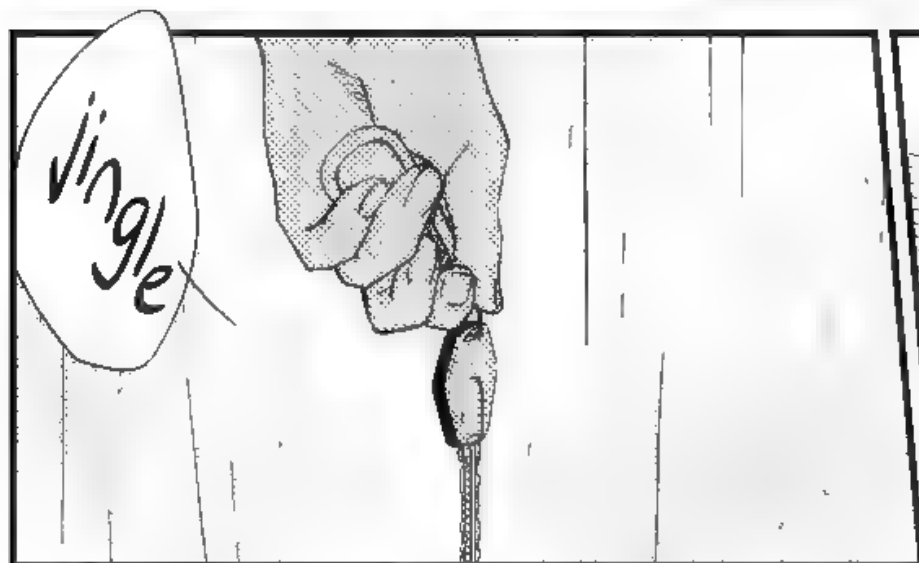
Right?

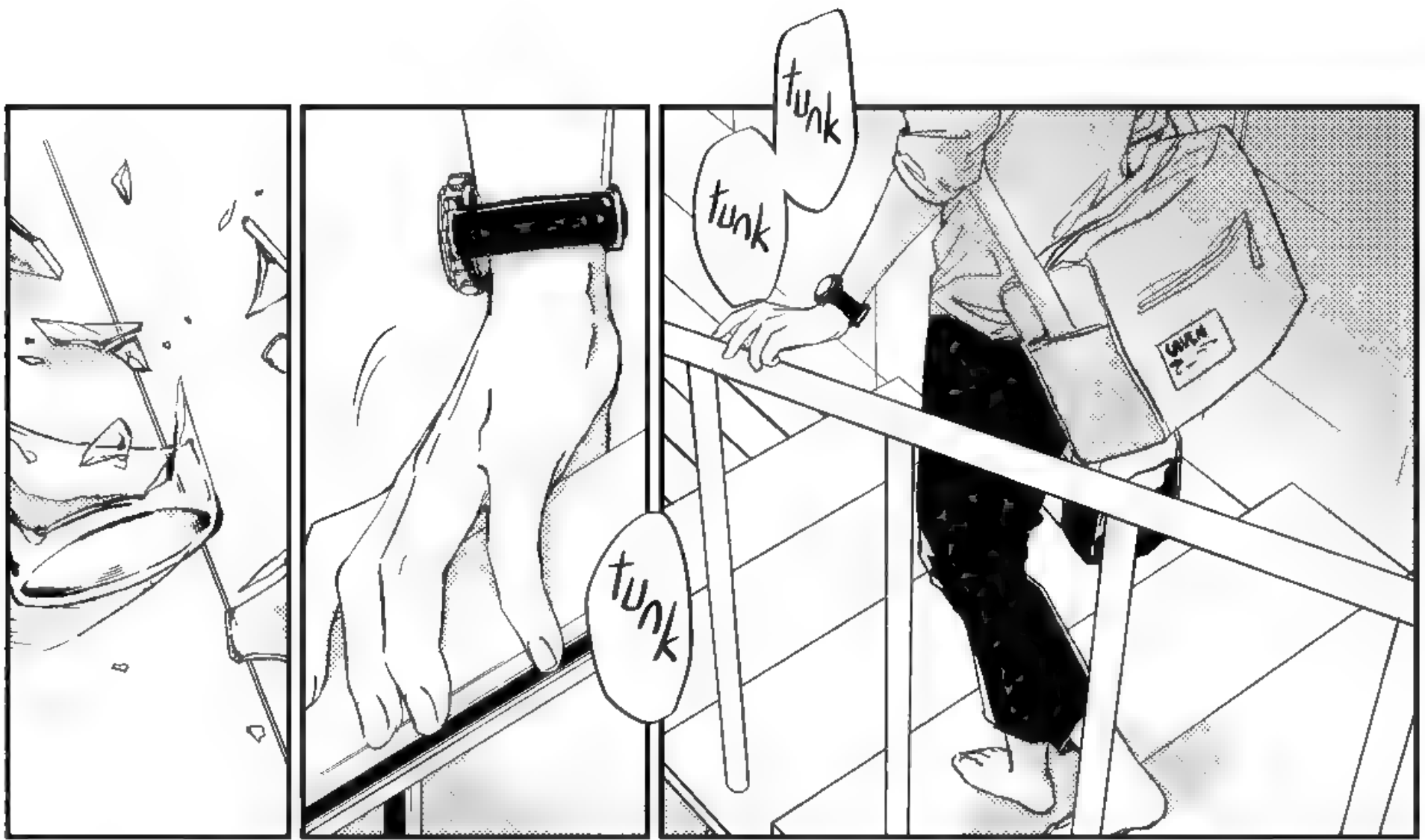
SEE THE BALLOTS EVERYONE GOT WHEN THEY CAME IN?





WHERE'S
KAJI?







BUT
WHEN I
WOKE UP
THIS
MORNING,
HE WAS
GONE.

---STAYED
OVER
AT MY
PLACE
LAST
NIGHT.

CLAP

THE
FIRST
BAND OF
DAY ONE
IS...

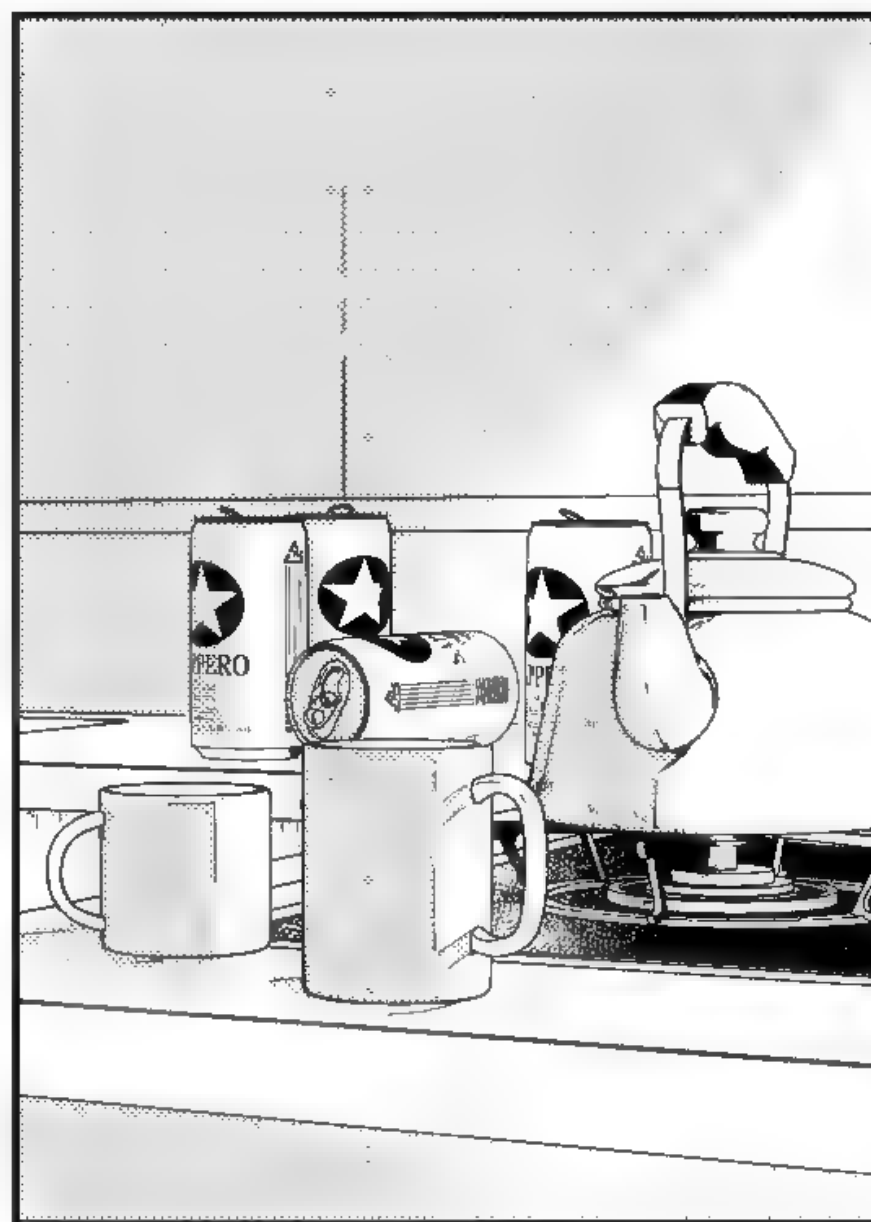


AND I
HAVEN'T
BEEN
ABLE
TO GET
AHOLD
OF HIM
SINCE.



...AND
THAT
HE'LL
BE BACK
SOON,
BUT...

I FIGURE
IT'S
NOTHING
SERIOUS
...



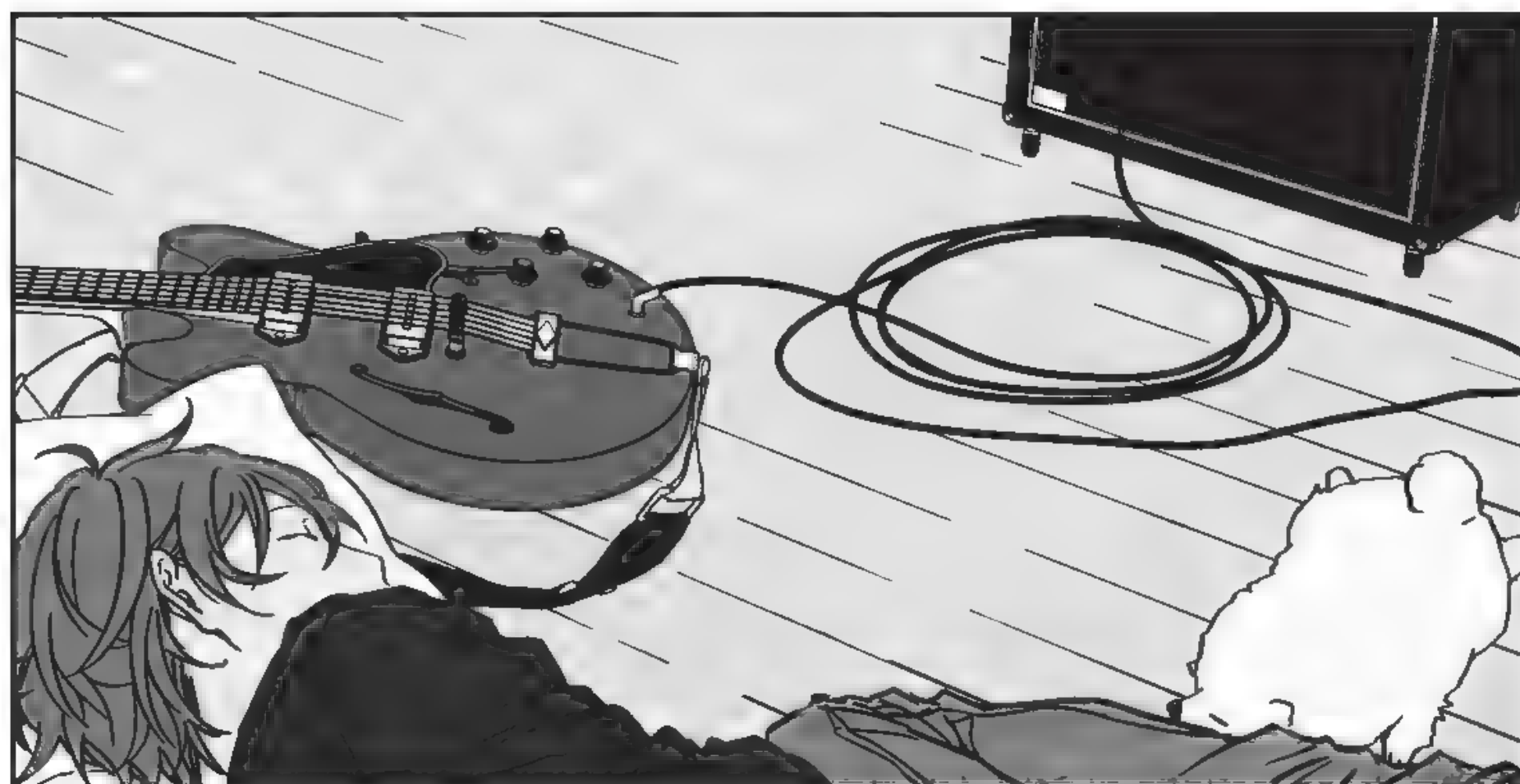


AKIHIKO
...?

S
H
A
A

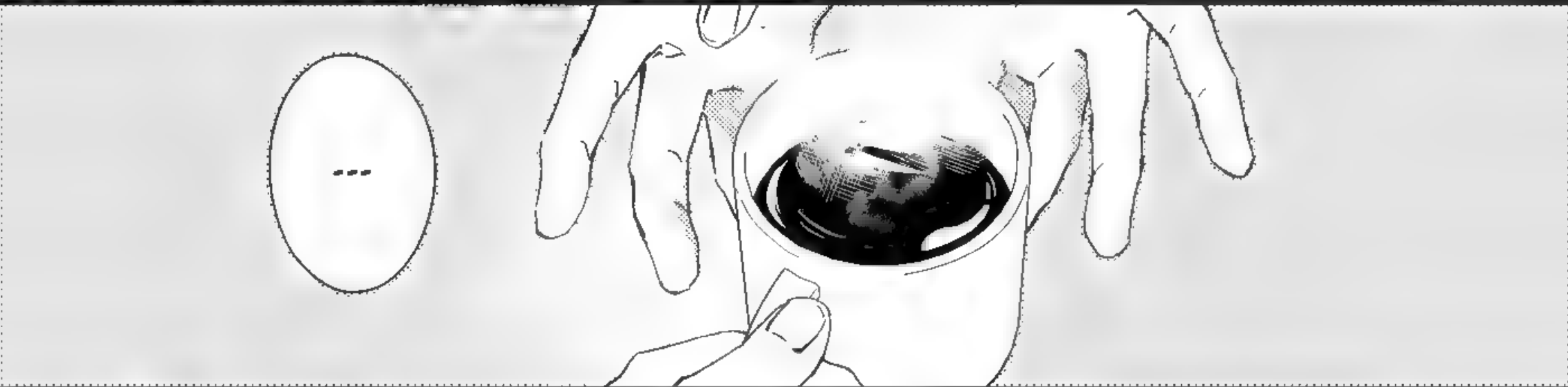


AKIHIKO
...?



given

by Natsuki Kizu



I'M
MOVING
OUT.



OH...

IS
THAT
SO?



SHAAAA

YEAH

IT
IS.



I JUST
DROPPED
BY...

...TO
PICK UP
SOME
CLOTHES.





BY
THE WAY,
THIS PLACE
HAS
BECOME
A STY
SINCE I
LEFT.

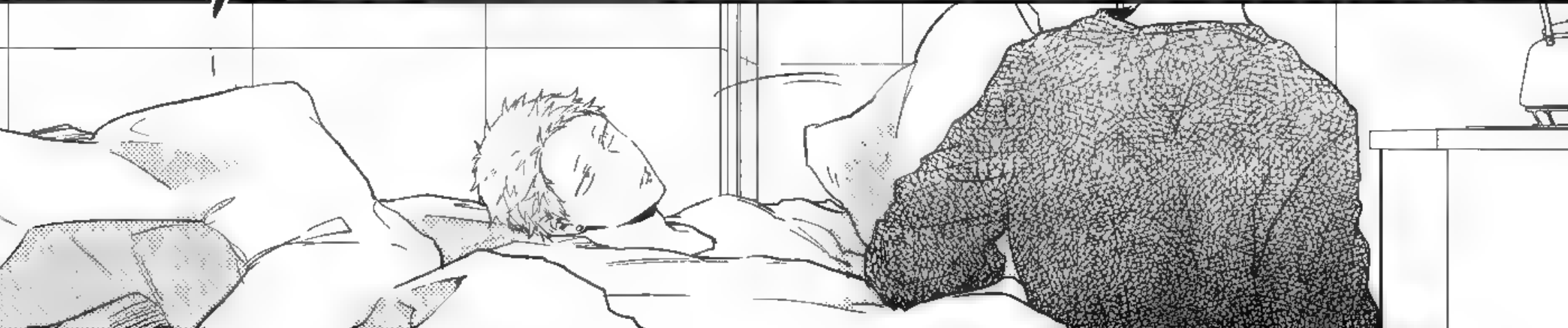
OH,
SHUT
UP.



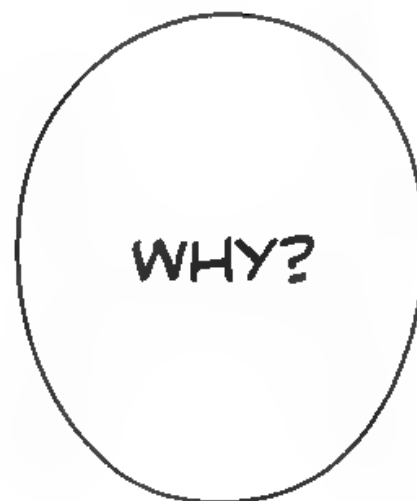
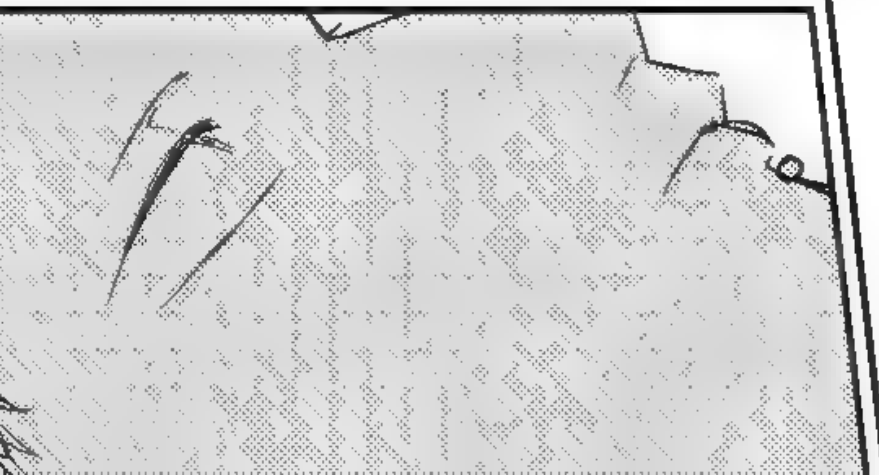
WANT
ME TO
MAKE
A FEW
MEALS
FOR
YOU?

WHAT,
ARE
YOU MY
MOTHER
NOW?

f
w
m
p



WHY
LEAVE
NOW,
AFTER
ALL THIS
TIME?



WHY?





FOR THE
LONGEST
TIME...

...I
THREW
MYSELF
INTO
PLAYING
VIOLIN
JUST TO
TRY AND
KEEP
UP WITH
YOU.



I
THOUGHT
THAT WAS
THE ONLY
THING I
COULD
DO...



... 'CAUSE
YOU
WERE
ALL I
HAD.

BUT...



...I
WAS
MISER-
ABLE.



LATELY,
PLAYING
MUSIC
HAS
STARTED
TO FEEL
GOOD
AGAIN.

I STARTED
PLAYING
THE DRUMS
ALMOST AS
A WAY TO
GET BACK
AT YOU.
OR MORE
LIKE I
ESCAPED
INTO
THEM.



...YOU
SUDDENLY
TOLD
ME YOU
WANTED TO
BREAK UP.

AND
THEN...

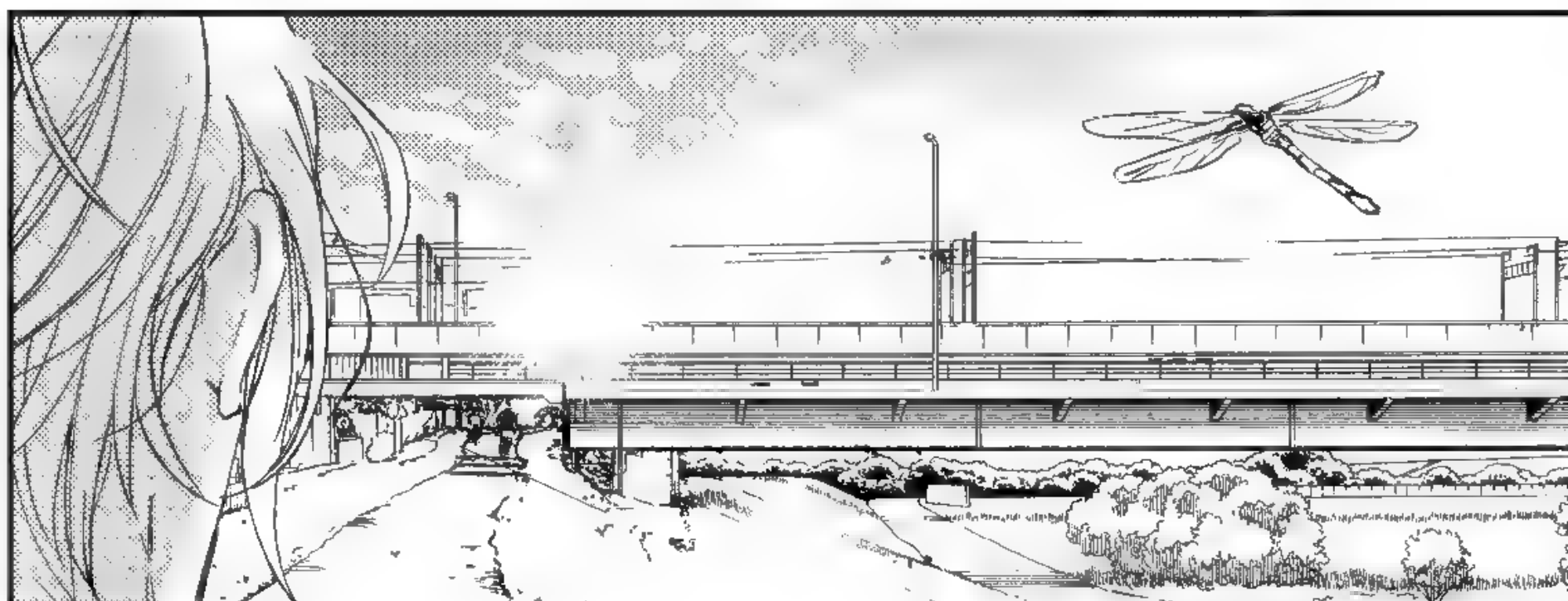


WHICH
IS WHAT
I WANTED,
SINCE MY
PASSION
FOR MUSIC
WAS FADING.



I FIGURED
IT WOULD
BE EASIER
THAN
CLASSICAL
MUSIC.

BUT...





I WANNA
GET
OUT OF
HERE.

I WANNA
GET OUT
AND TRY
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENT
KIND OF
MUSIC.



NO!





WHY?













THE
REALITY
IS...



...DIF-
FERENT
THAN
IT DID
BEFORE.

...IT
FEELS
...

BUT
STILL
...

...IT'S NOT
LIKE THESE
FEELINGS OF
LOVE JUST
SUDDENLY
DISAPPEARED.

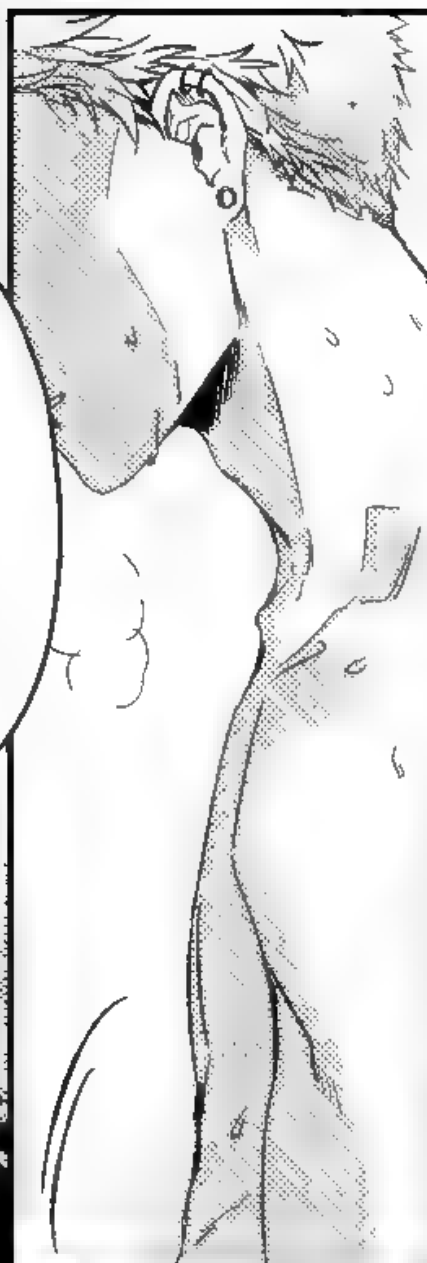
THAT'S
HOW
BADLY
I GOT
HURT.





EVEN
IF I
TOLD
YOU...

...
THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU
CAN DO.



I
GUESS
SOME
PART OF
ME WAS
HOPING
THAT...

...THAT
MAYBE HE
FINALLY
WOULD.
MAYBE HE
WOULD
LET
HIMSELF
DEPEND
ON ME.

...BY
OFFERING
TO HELP
HIM...
BY BEGGING
HIM TO RELY
ON ME
FOR REAL...



...HE
DOESN'T
WANT
ANYTHING
FROM
ME.

THE
HARDEST
PART OF
ALL OF
THIS IS
KNOWING
THAT...



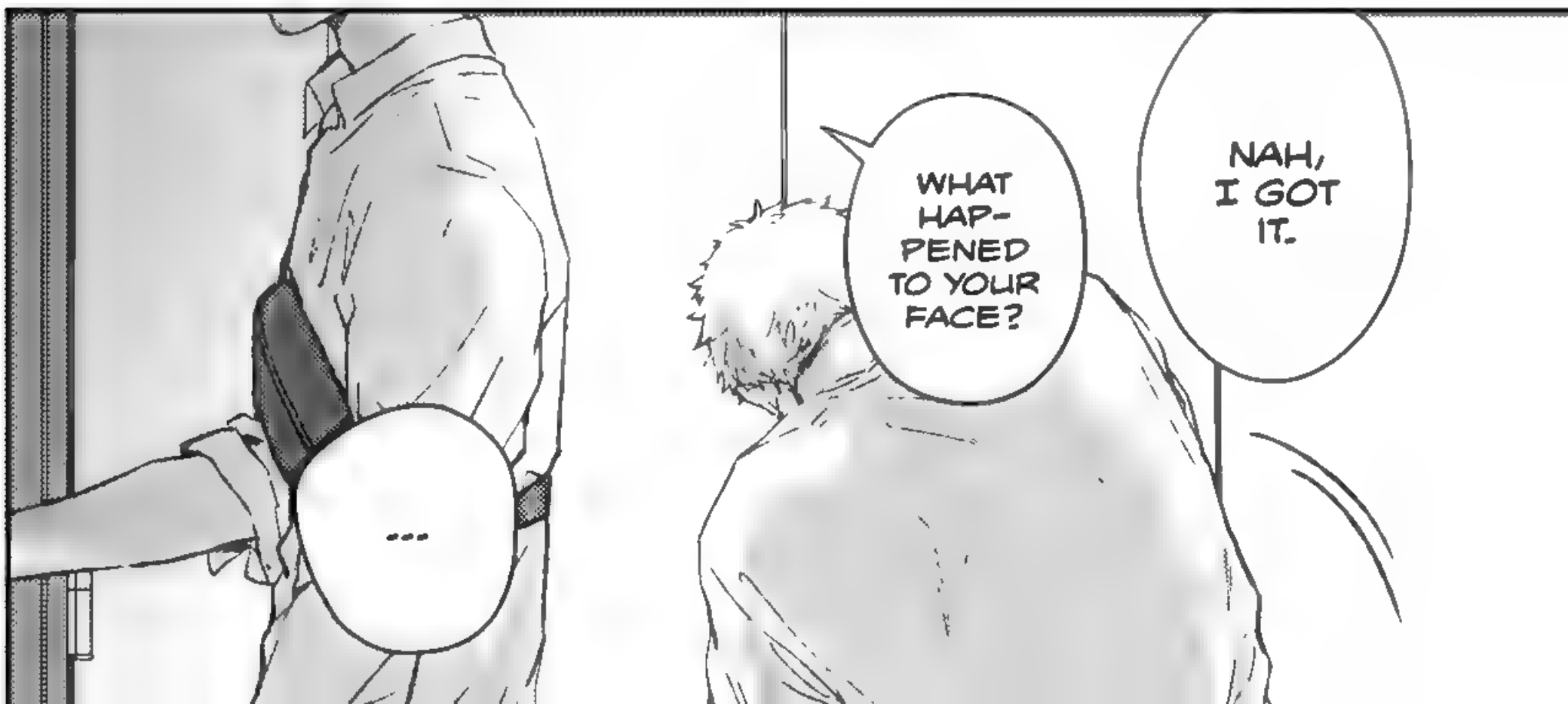
Icons and text for transportation services:

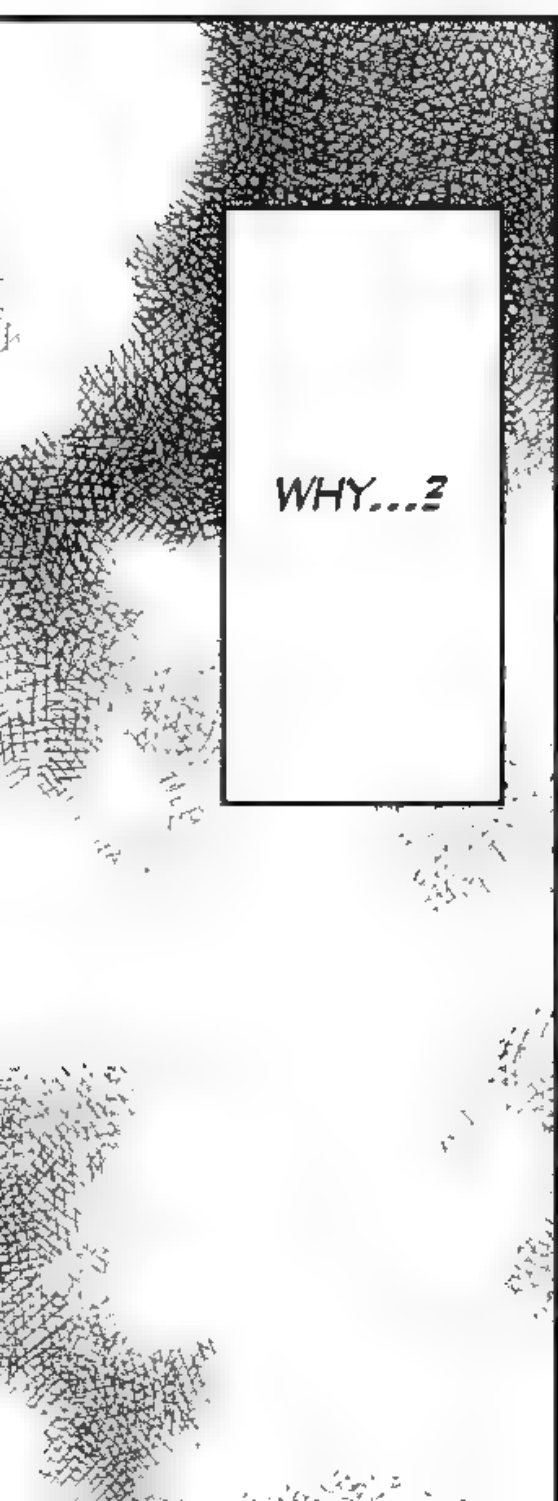
- エレベーター Elevator
- タクシー Taxi
- 小田急線 Odakyu Line
- 交番 Kouban
- バス Bus

生田緑地・小田急登戸駅方面
for Ikuta Park, Odakyu Noborito Station

生田緑地
Ikuta Park Exit









HOW
COULD
YOU?!

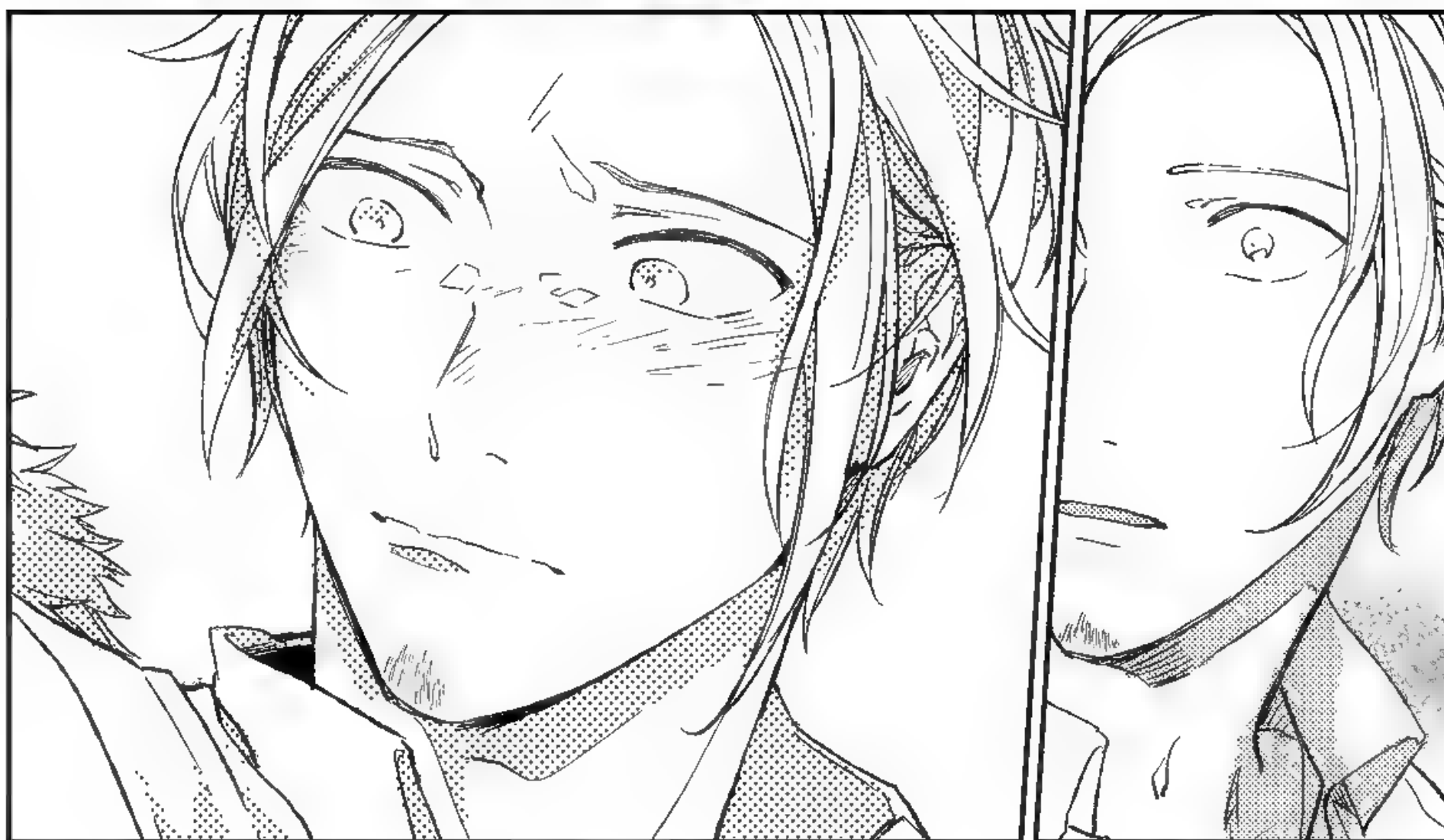
HOW
COULD
YOU
GIVE UP
THE
VIOLIN?!



...



Damn
lighter's
not
working.





THAT WAS INCREDIBLE....

YEAH....

ALL THE BANDS...

THEY WERE GREAT...

THEY WERE SO COOL....

dazed



WHAT THE HELL ?!

W-WHA

RUB

RUB

RUB

RUB

RUB

RUB

fidget

WHAT.

HIRAGI WAS REALLY GOOD TOO, WASN'T HE?

I STILL THINK HE'S A DICK, BUT I GOTTA ADMIT HE HAS TALENT.

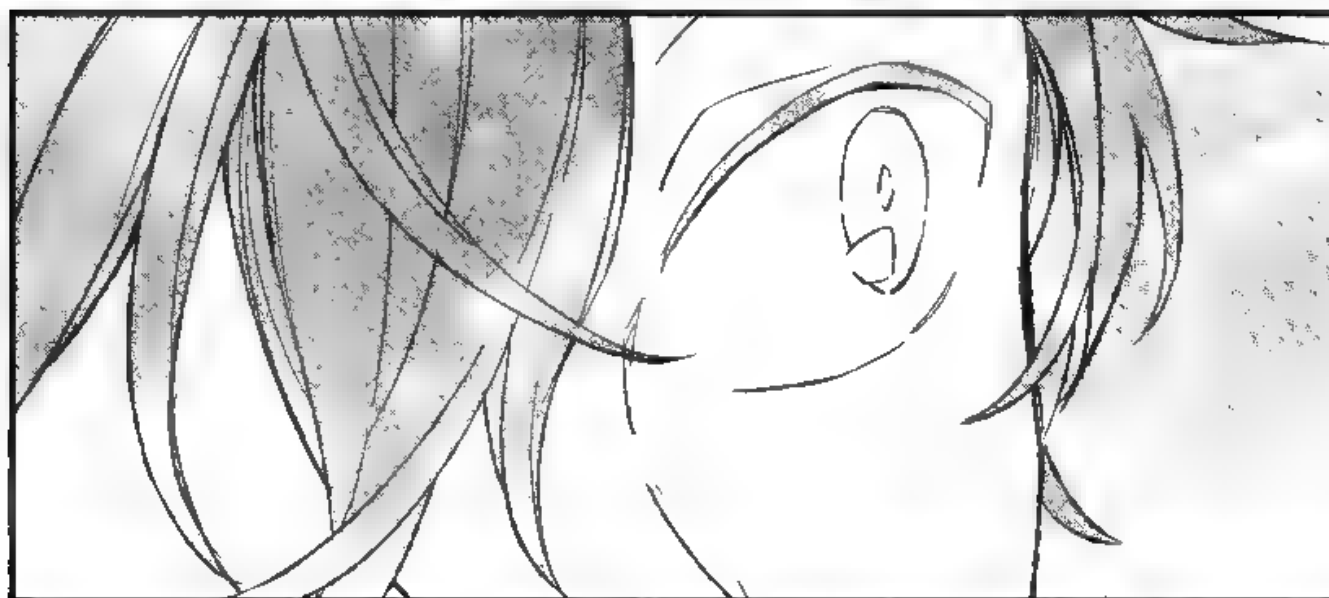
I COULD SEE HIM AS A SONGWRITER OR PRODUCER.

HE'S GOT THE TASTE.





**YOU'VE
CHANGED.**



AT
FIRST...

...YOU
WERE
LIKE,
"I CAN'T
BE IN A
BAND."

"I DON'T
HAVE ANY
IDEAS."

"I CAN'T
EXPRESS
MYSELF."

YOU
WERE
SO
UNSURE
OF YOUR-
SELF...





given

by Natsuki Kizu



chatter



chatter



chatter



chapter 27

given

BASS,
YOU'RE
NEXT.



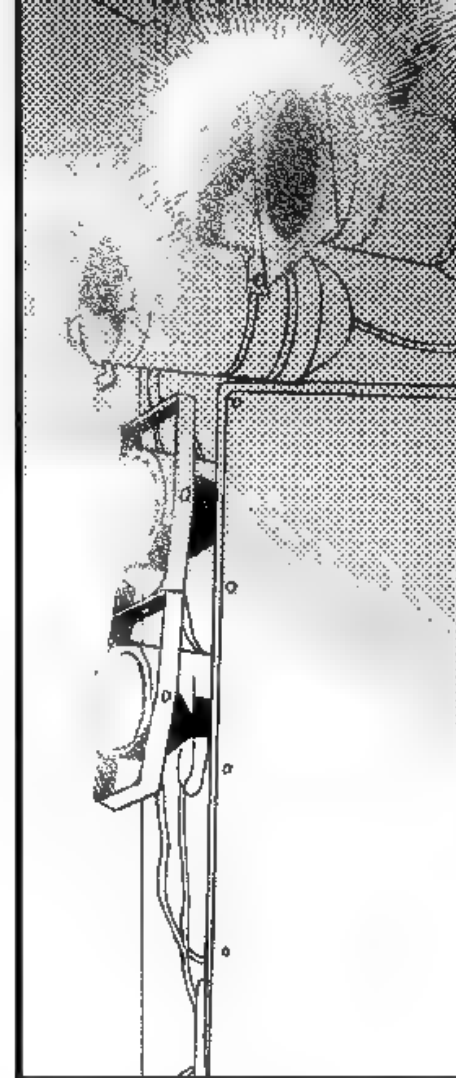


chatter

...I TOLD
HIM THAT
I WANTED
TO LEAVE
AND TRY
TO MAKE...

...A
DIFFER-
ENT
KIND OF
MUSIC.

YESTER-
DAY...



GUITAR,
YOUR
TURN.

BLIT...

THANKS.

OKAY,
YOU'RE
SET.

DAY.2



"HOW
COULD
YOU GIVE
UP THE
VIOLIN?!"

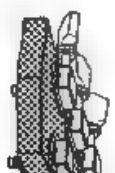
THAT
WAS HIS
IMMEDIATE
REACTION.

chatter
chatter

VOCALS
NEXT,
PLEASE.

AT THAT
MOMENT
...

...I
COULDN'T
THINK OF
ANYTHING
TO SAY.



FINE.

THEN
LEAVE.

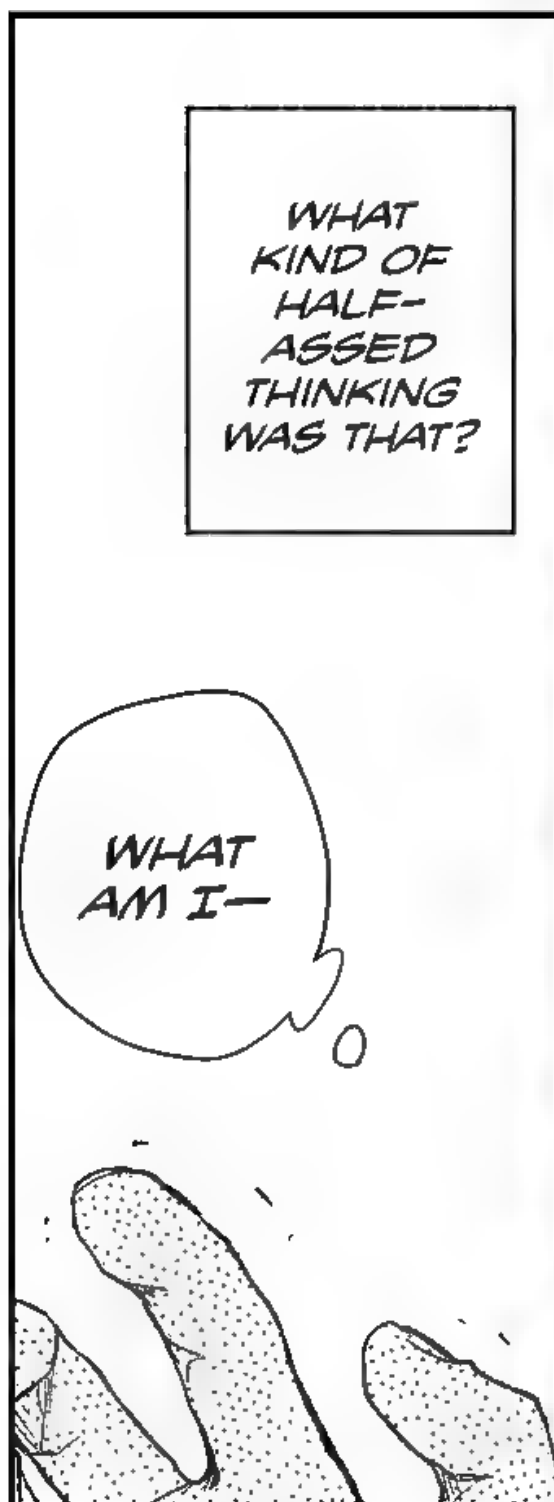
KASH

I WASN'T
ANGLING
FOR THAT
KIND OF
RESPONSE
FROM
HIM.

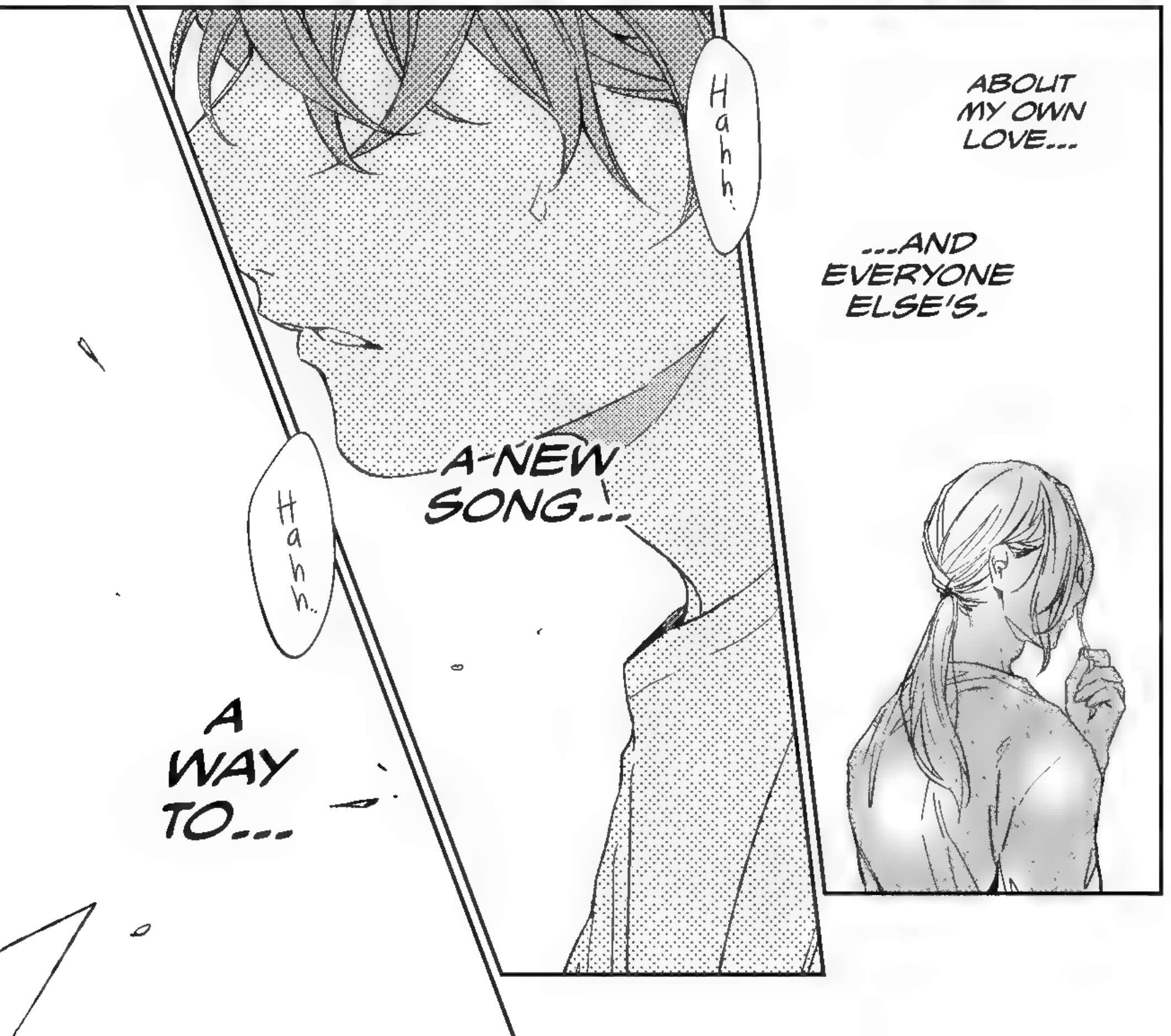
BUT...

...I
STILL
COULDN'T
TELL
HIM...

...THAT
I
WASN'T
GIVING
UP.









IS
HE
...?

?!
HUH
?

KRA
KL

...MAKE
EVERYONE'S
EMOTIONS
RESONATE.

WHEN





THIS
FEELING...

IT'S
JUST
LIKE...





I WANT
TO REACH
OUT.
I WANT TO
CONNECT.

BECAUSE
...



---ONE
DAY,
WE
HAVE
TO
PART.



I FELT
LIKE
I WAS
MOVING
AWAY
FROM THE
SEASON
YOU
WERE IN,
ONE
STEP AT
A TIME.

---I
WISH
WE
DIDN'T
HAVE
TO.

NO
MATTER
HOW
MUCH...



**I'M
SURE...**



**...IT'S
THE
SAME...**



**...FOR
EVERY-
ONE.**



**I HAD A
FEELING
I COULD
NEVER
GO
BACK...**

**...SO
I WAS
SCARED
FOR THE
DAWN TO
COME.**



HE'S
INCRED-
IBLE.



BUM

WHEN...

...THAT
A SONG
GAVE
ME
GOOSE-
BUMPS
LIKE
THIS?

WHEN
WAS THE
LAST
TIME...

BUM

DAMN

EVEN
THOUGH
I ONCE
LOVED
IT SO
MUCH.

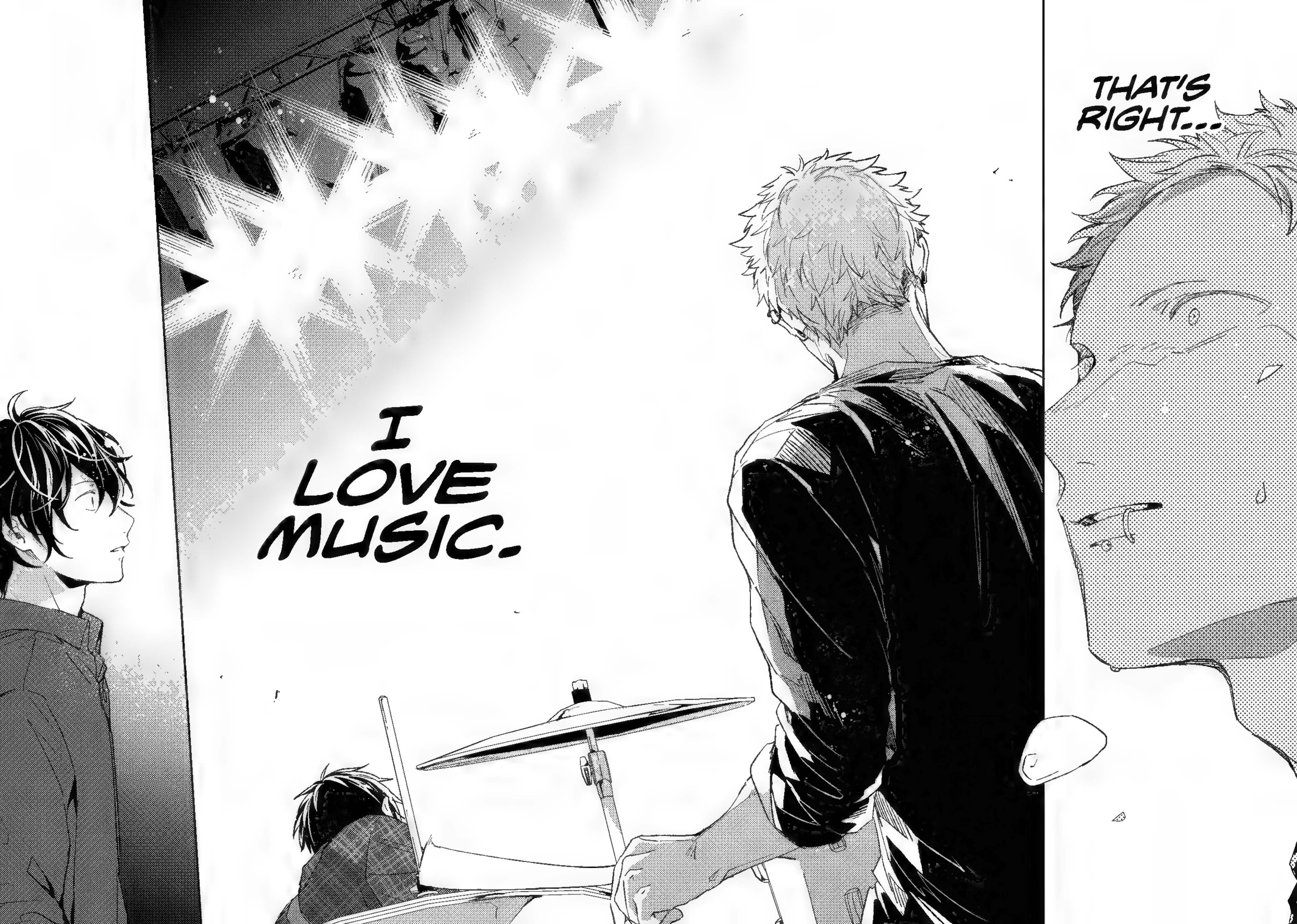


WHEN
DID I
START
HATING
MUSIC?

...THE
FIRST
TIME...

...I
HEARD
UGETSU
PLAY.

EVEN
THOUGH I
REMEMBER
SHIVERING
WITH AWE
LIKE I
AM NOW...



**I
LOVE
MUSIC.**

**THAT'S
RIGHT...**





IT'S
HIM,
ISN'T
IT.



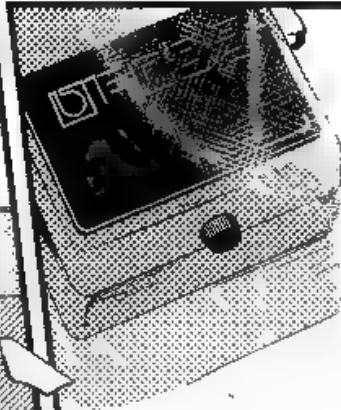
WE LET
GO OF
EACH
OTHER'S
HANDS.



WE
START
TO
DRIFT
APART.



EVEN
THOUGH



EVEN
THOUGH
I CAN'T
GO
ANYWHERE.



---I
DON'T
WANT TO
GO---



---DAWN
WILL
INEVITABLY
BREAK.





**BUT
EVEN
SO...**

**EVEN
SO...**



WHAT
IF...



I KEEP
OBSESSING
OVER
IT...

MAYBE
HE'LL
SHOW UP
TOMORROW...
OR MAYBE
HE WON'T.

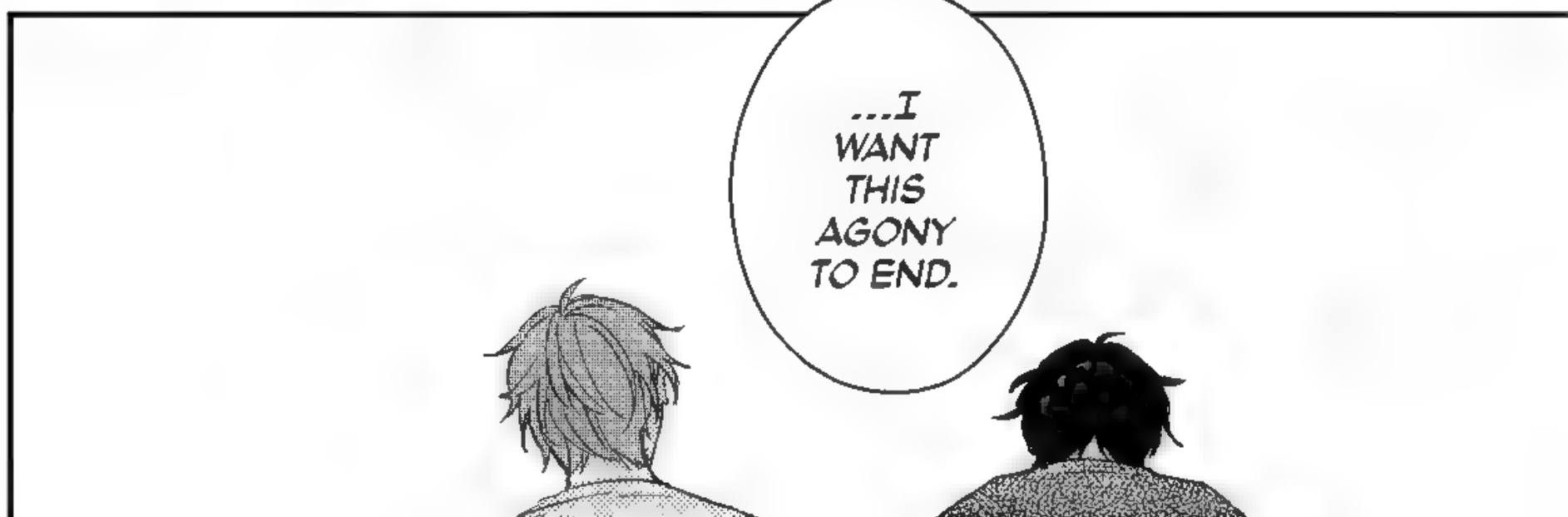
BUT NO
MATTER
HOW
MUCH
I THINK
ABOUT IT,
I CAN'T
REALLY
PICTURE
IT.

...I
CAN'T
STOP
THINKING
OF.

...AKIHIKO
DOESN'T
COME
BACK?
IT'S
SOMETHING
THAT...



...BUT
AT THE
SAME
TIME...



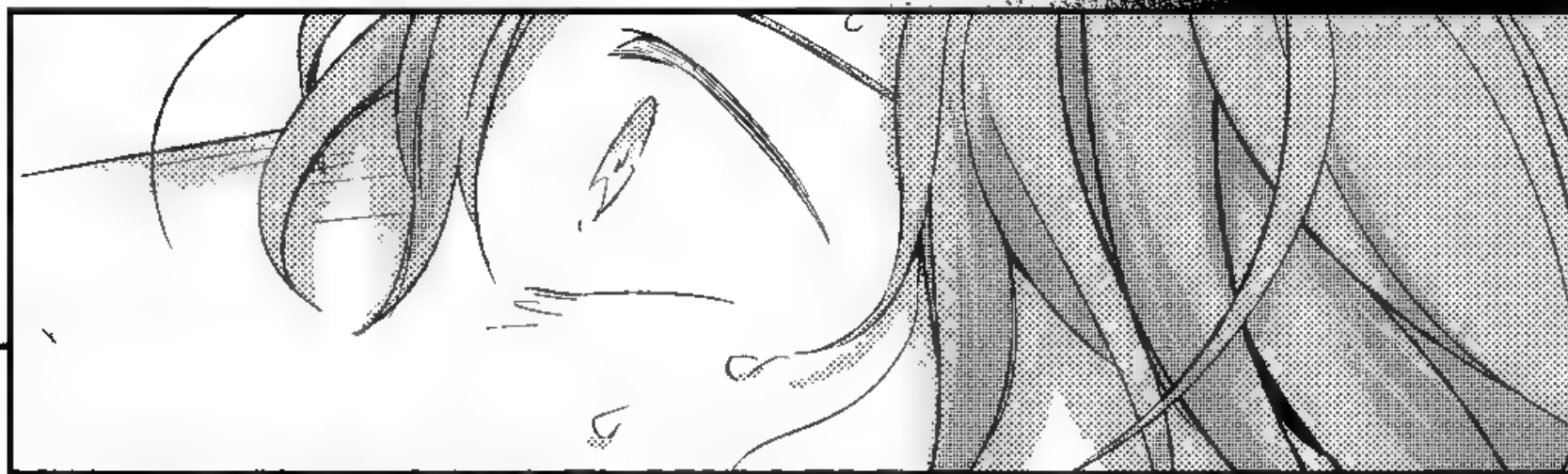
...I
WANT
THIS
AGONY
TO END.



I HOPE
THAT AT
LEAST
THE MUSIC
REMAINS.

THE
M

IT'LL
BE
OKAY.





**I'M SURE
WE'LL BE
ABLE TO
GO AS
FAR AS
WE WANT.**



**EVEN SO,
MORNING
WILL
INEVITABLY
COME.**



**EVERY-
THING
WILL
BE ALL
RIGHT.**

**I
WANT
TO
REACH
THEM!**





rattle

NEXT
BAND,
PLEASE
SET UP.

clap
clap

FOR
A
R

clap

THANK
YOU,
GIVEN!

HARUKI!

SURE,
BUT...

...THE
NEXT
BAND'S
ON.

?

clap
clap

WSH

I'M
GONNA
GO WALK
SOMEONE
TO THE
STATION!

ALL
RIGHT...
SEE YOU
LATER.

I
PROMISE!

I'LL
COME
BACK.

CHEER
clap
clap

...

...



Huff

TMP

Huff

huff

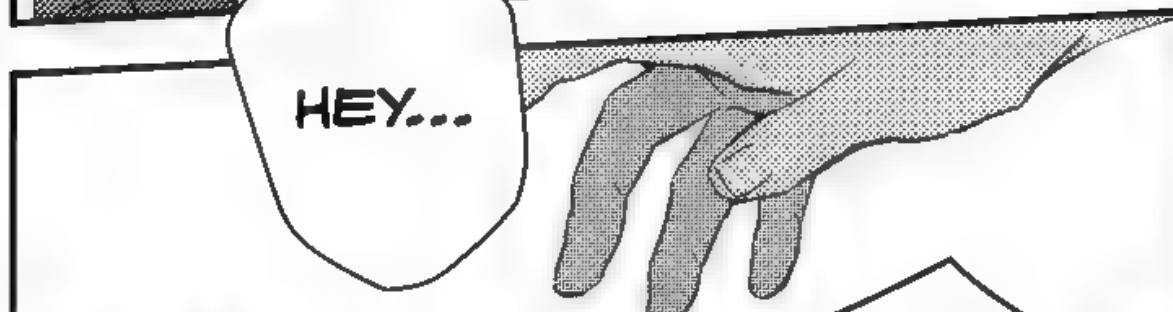
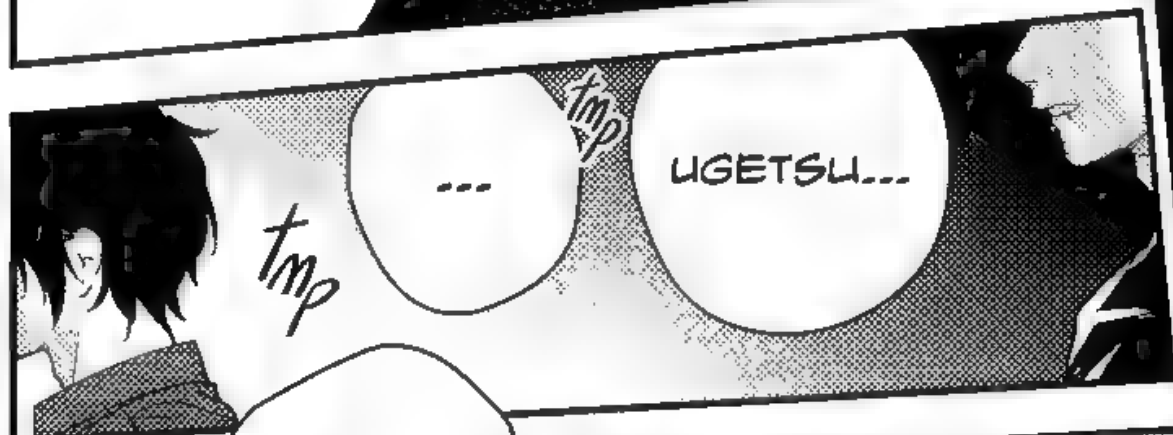
TMP

Huff

Huff

UGETSU!







I...

I
REALLY
DO LOVE
THE
VIOLIN.

Huff

Grip

I HAVE
FUN
PLAYIN'
THE
DRUMS...

...BUT
EVERY-
THING
I'VE PUT
INTO THE
VIOLIN
UP TILL
NOW...

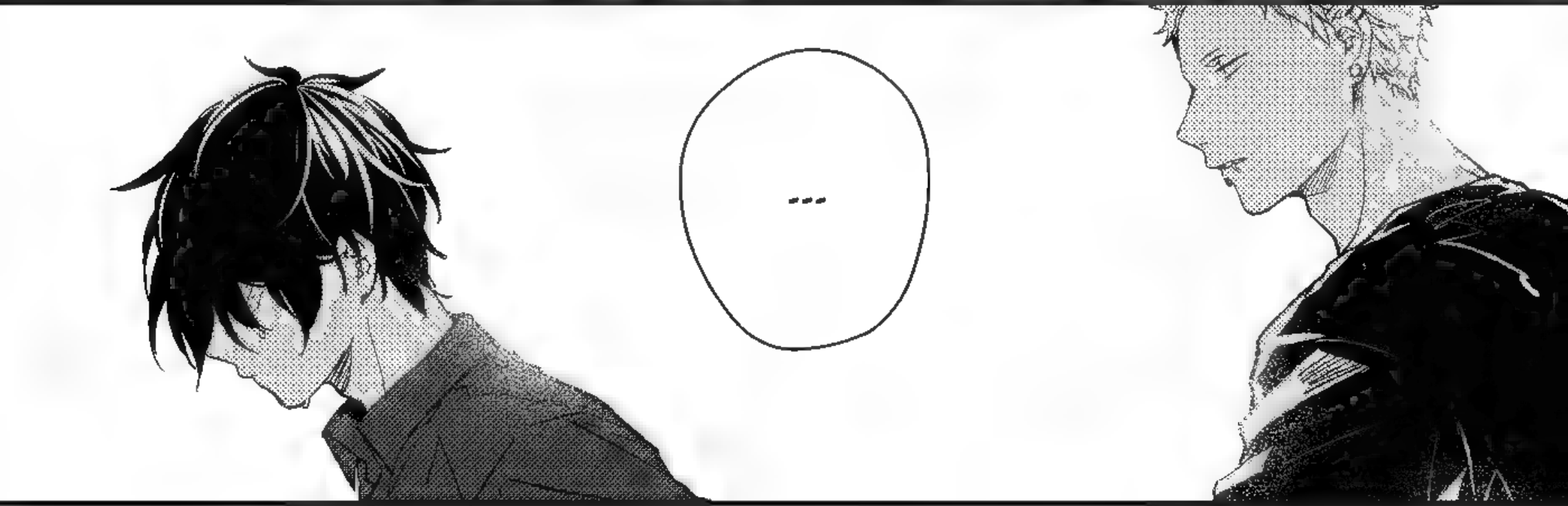
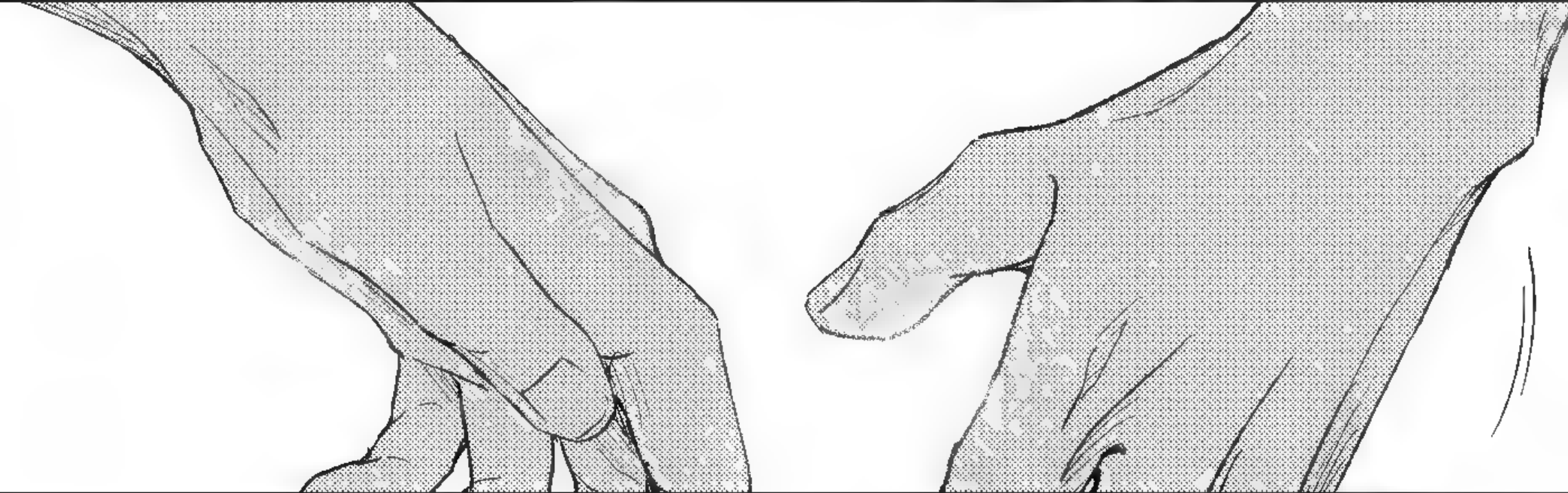
...HAS
BEEN
NO LIE.

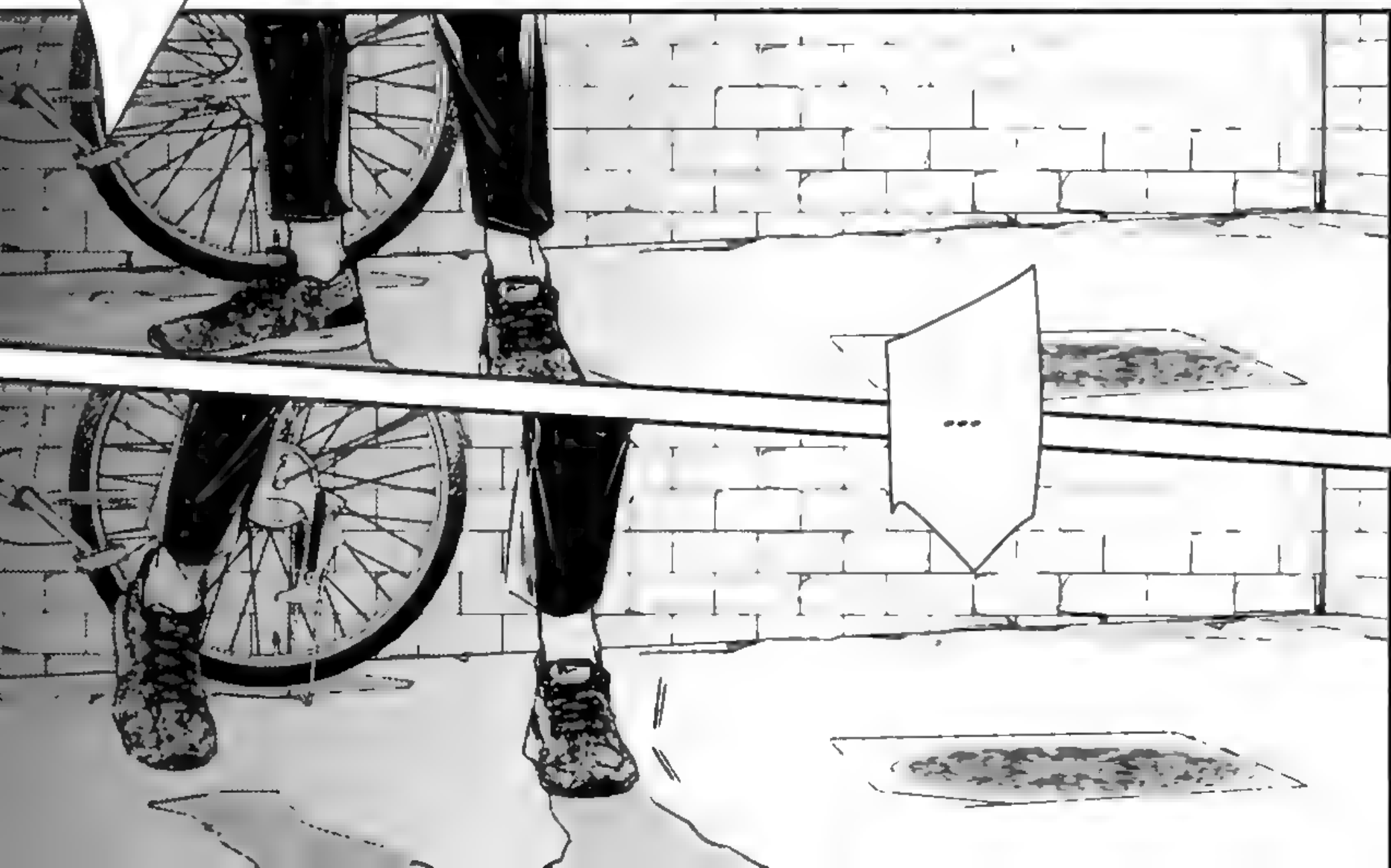
...

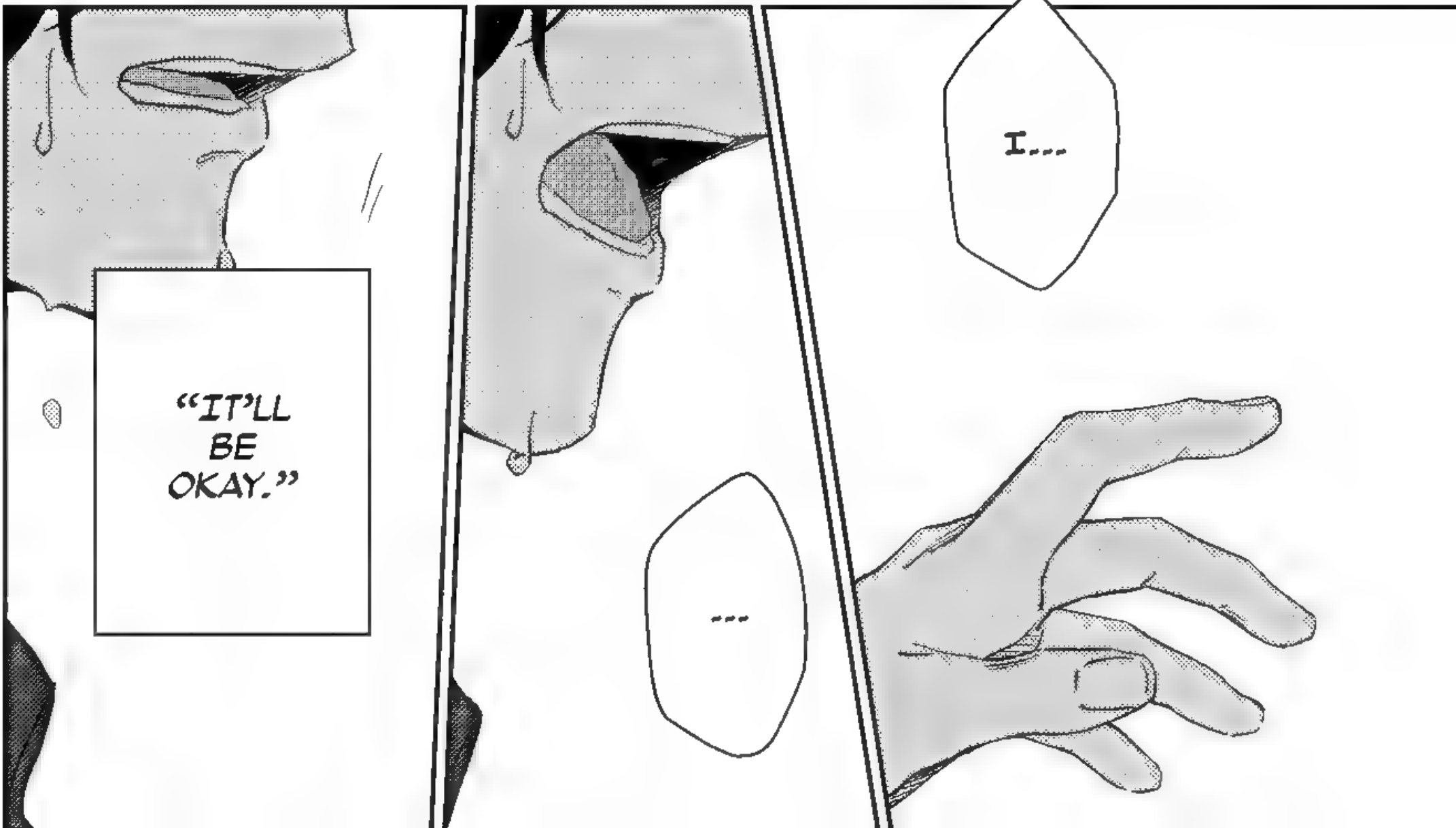
THIS
DEFINITELY
SOUNDS
LIKE A
BREAKUP
SPEECH...



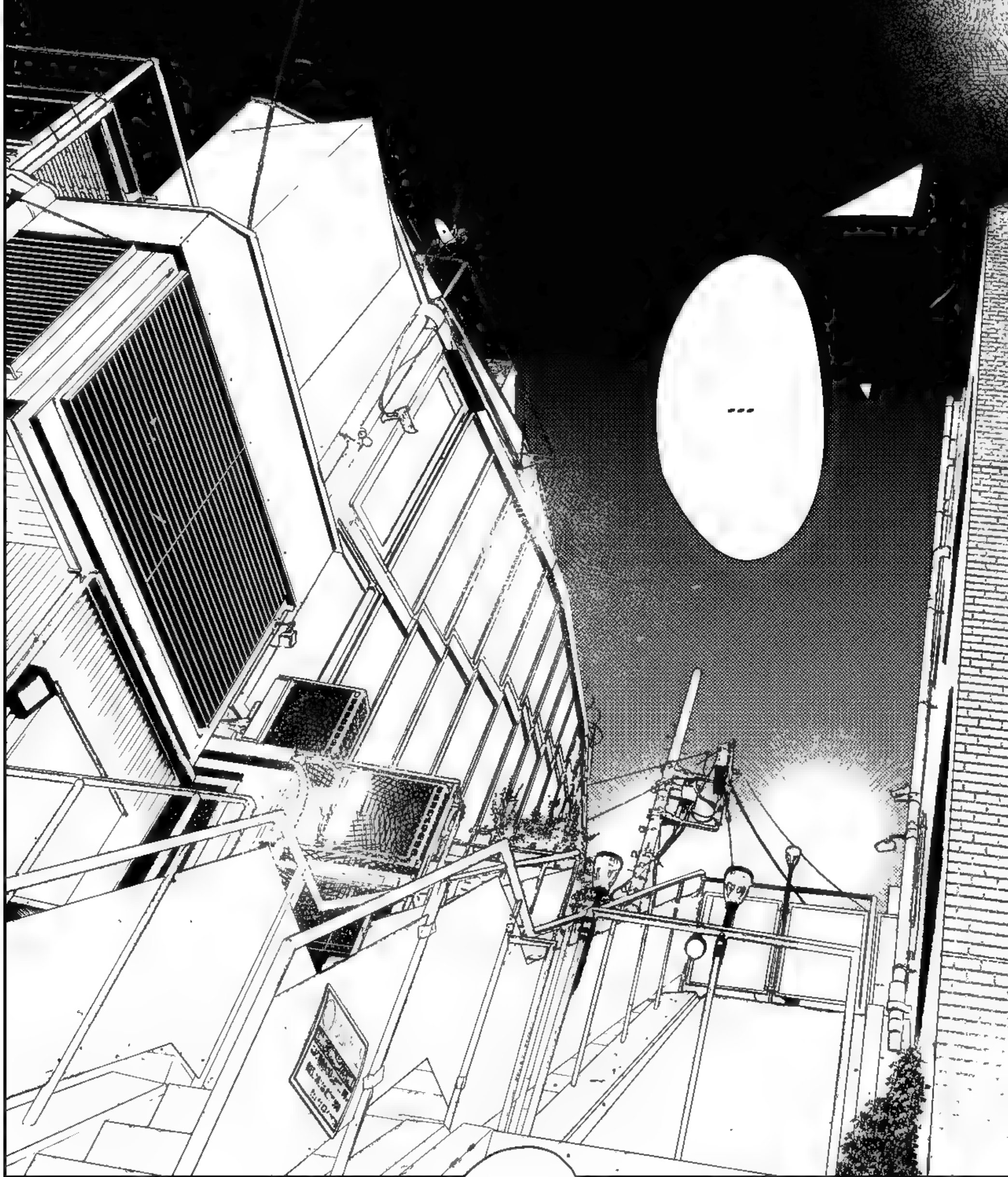












BYE-
BYE...


...
AKIHIKO.

chapter 28

given



IN THE
END,
WE DIDN'T
MAKE
THE CUT.



I WASN'T
REALLY
EXPECTING
US TO WIN,
BUT SOMEHOW
I DIDN'T THINK
WE WERE
GOING TO
LOSE EITHER.

...JUST
ONE
SMALL
STEP
AWAY
FROM
SUCCESS.


WE
WERE
LEFT...



A FEW
DAYS
LATER,
AKIHIKO
MOVED
OUT.

THOUGH
IT WAS
EXTREMELY
FRUSTRATING
NOT TO
MAKE THE
SELECTION
FOR THE
FESTIVAL...

...ON THE
UPSIDE,
OUR PERFOR-
MANCE
BROUGHT
US A
LOT OF
ATTENTION.





WHEN HE RESPONDED TO ME IN THAT WAY...

...I REALIZED THAT SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE OF HIM HAD CHANGED.







HARUKI!



LUCKY
SON
OF A
BITCH...

FIST
BUMP...



YACCHAN
GOT A
GIRLFRIEND.

FIST
BUMP!

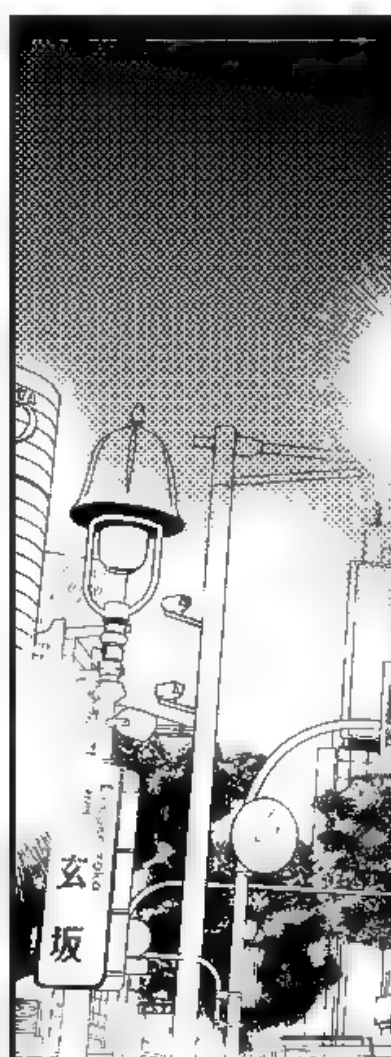


HERE.

IT'S
ON ME!

HUH?!

UM,
THANKS.



BEFORE
WE
KNEW IT,
SPRING
HAD
ARRIVED.

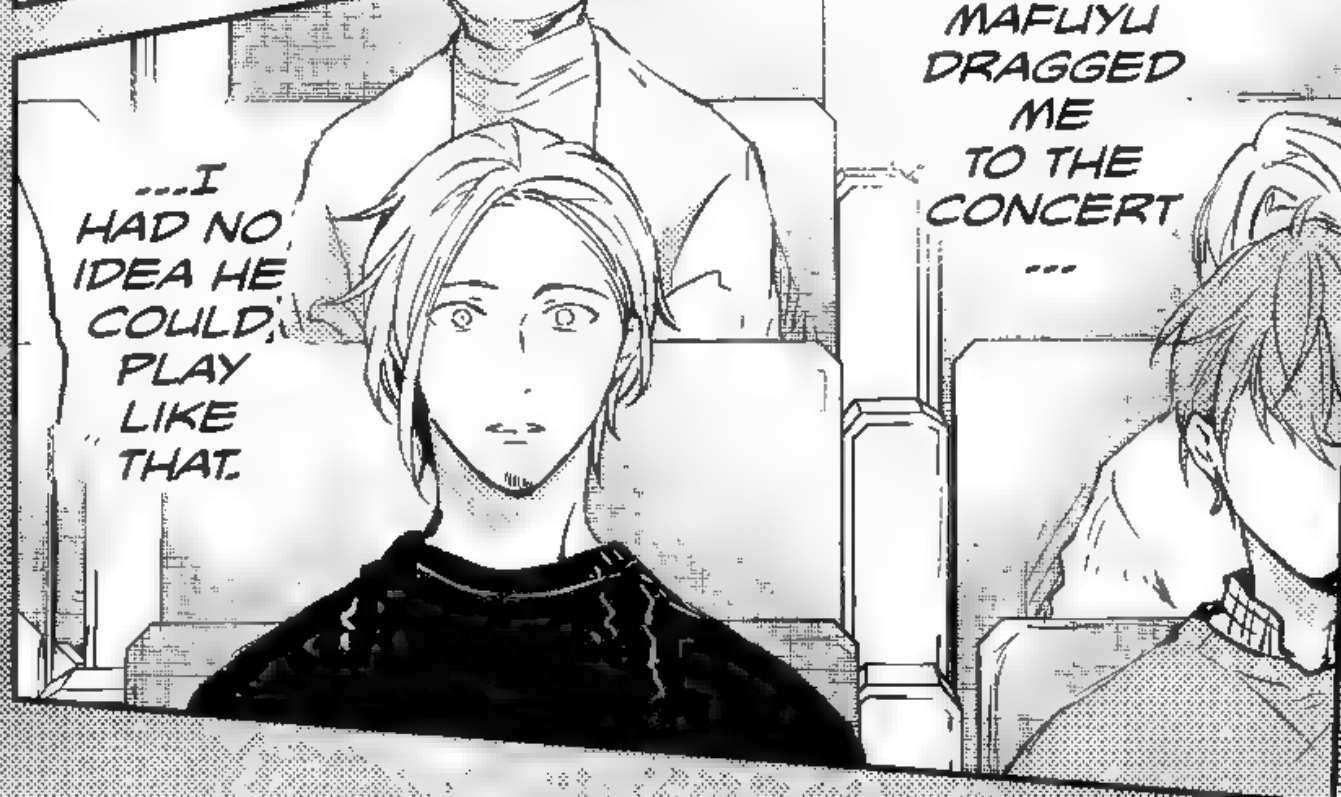
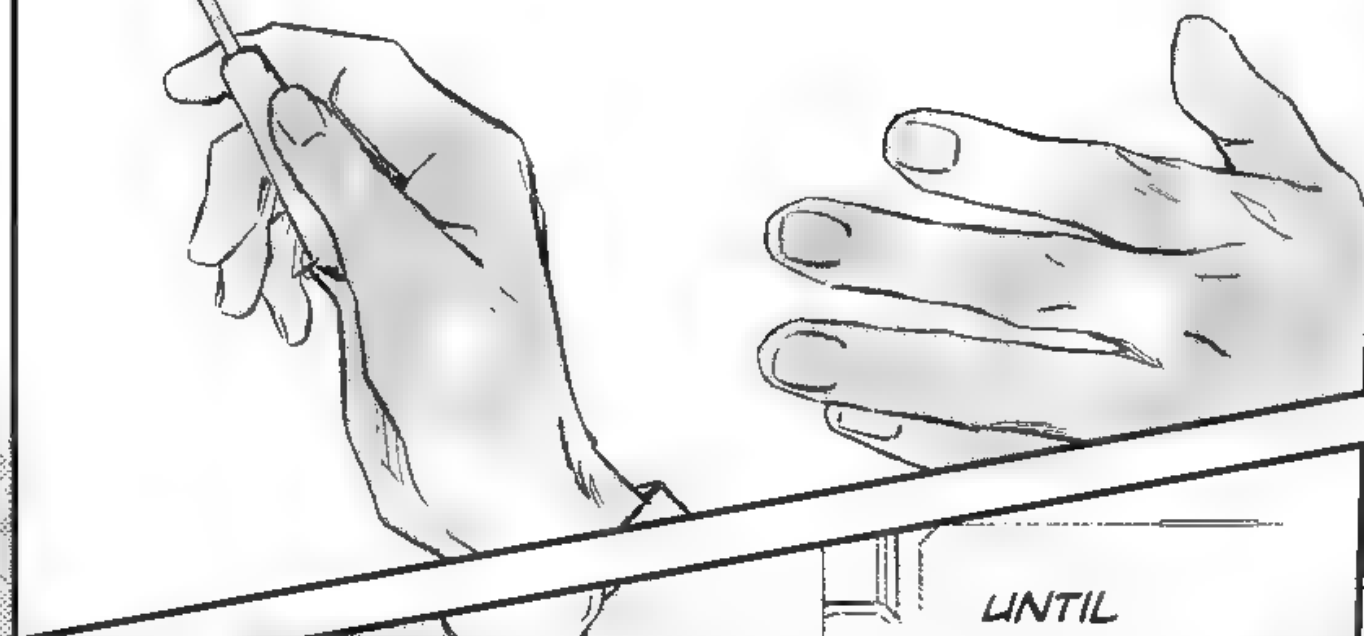


YEAH
YEAH,
YOU'RE
WELCOME.

YOU'VE
BEEN
ACTING KIND
OF WEIRD
LATELY...
WHAT'S
WITH THE
SUDDEN
GENEROS-
ITY?

AKIHIKO...

...PARTICIPATED
IN A VIOLIN
COMPETITION.




...I
HAD NO
IDEA HE
COULD
PLAY
LIKE
THAT.

UNTIL
MAFLIYU
DRAGGED
ME
TO THE
CONCERT
...

FOR
SOME
REASON,
I HAD
THOUGHT...





...THAT
AKIHIKO
DIDN'T HAVE
THAT KIND
OF RAW,
TURBULENT
PASSION
WITHIN HIM.



ALL
OF A
SUDDEN,
I GOT
SCARED.



IS
THIS...



...WHO
HE
REALLY
IS
INSIDE?



PRETENDING I
WAS FEELING ILL,
I LEFT AS SOON
AS THE EVENT
FINISHED AND
JUMPED ON A
TRAIN WITHOUT
EVEN GOING
TO SAY HI TO
AKIHIKO.



...I
KNEW
THAT ONE
OF THE
JUDGES
FOR THE
COMPETITION
THAT DAY...

...WAS
UGETSU
MURATA.



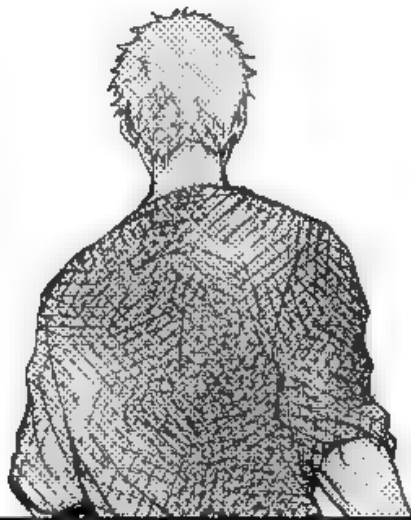
THE
TRUTH
IS...



KTUNK
KTAK

BUT...

...I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENED
AFTER
THAT.



...HE
WAS
GOING
AFTER
MURATA.

I KNEW
THAT WHEN
AKIHIKO
RAN OUT THE
NIGHT OF OUR
PERFORMANCE...



...WHEN
HE SAID HE
WAS IN
LOVE WITH
SOMEONE.

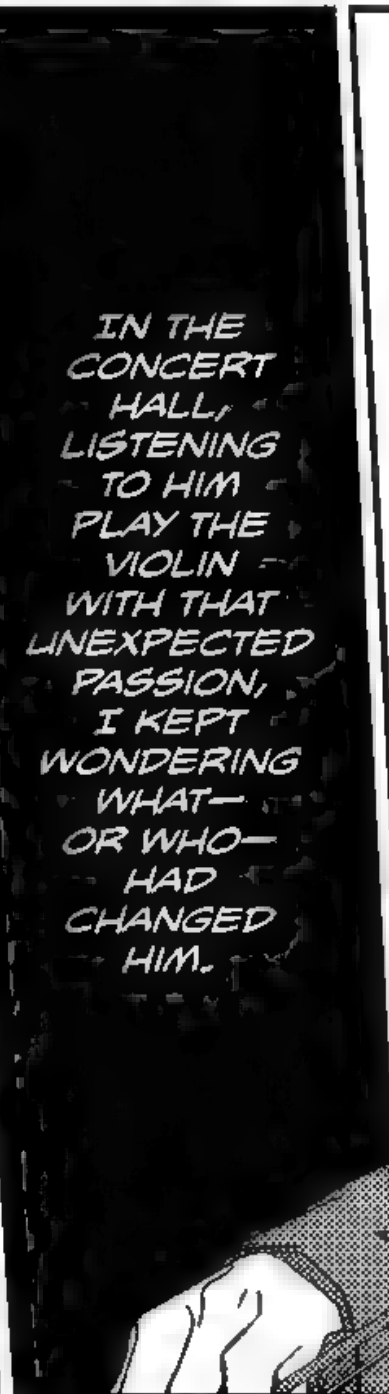
AND I
KNEW
WHO
AKIHIKO
MEANT...



MY
FEELINGS
OF LOVE
FOR
AKIHIKO
WERE
STILL
SMOLDER-
ING...

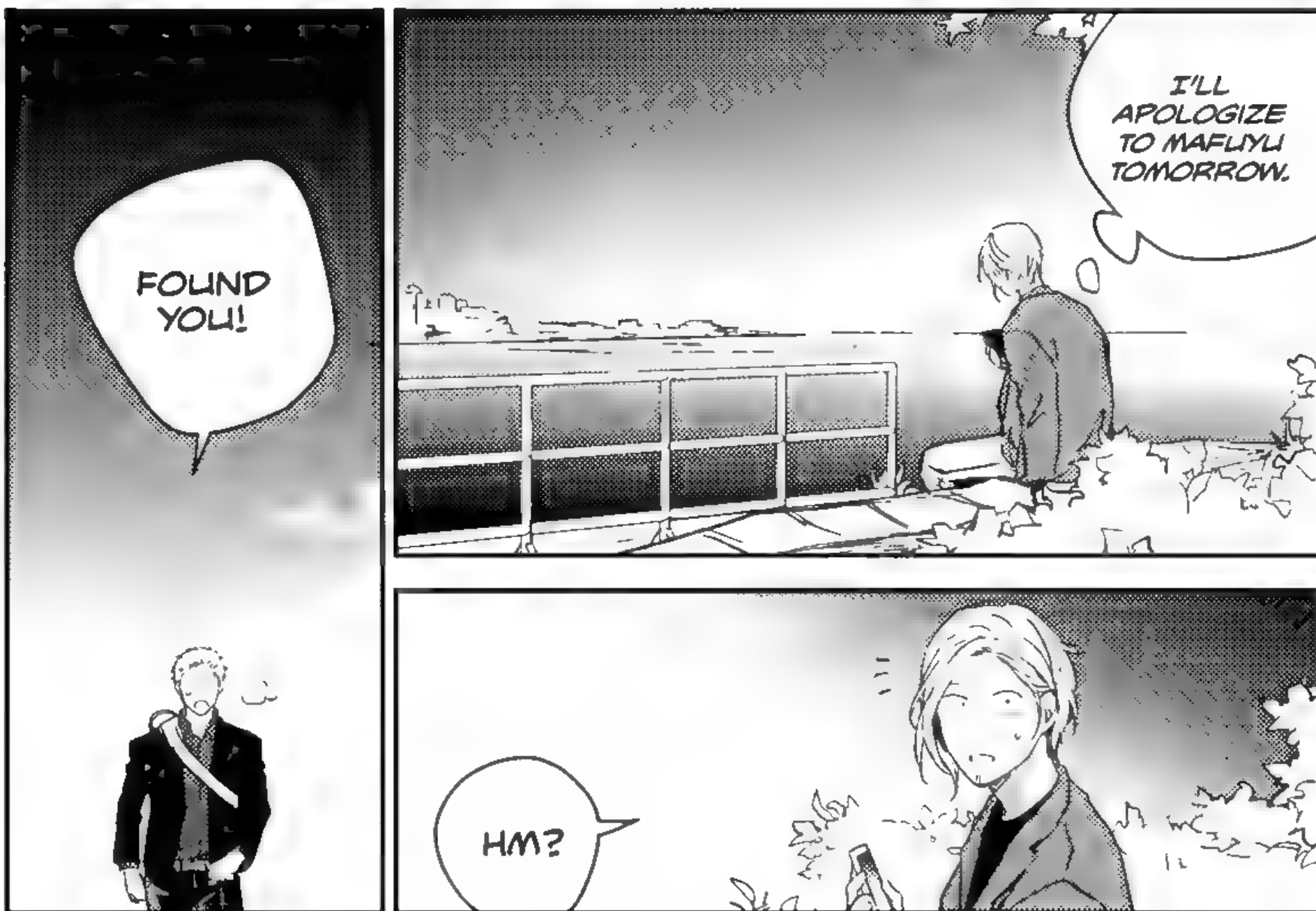
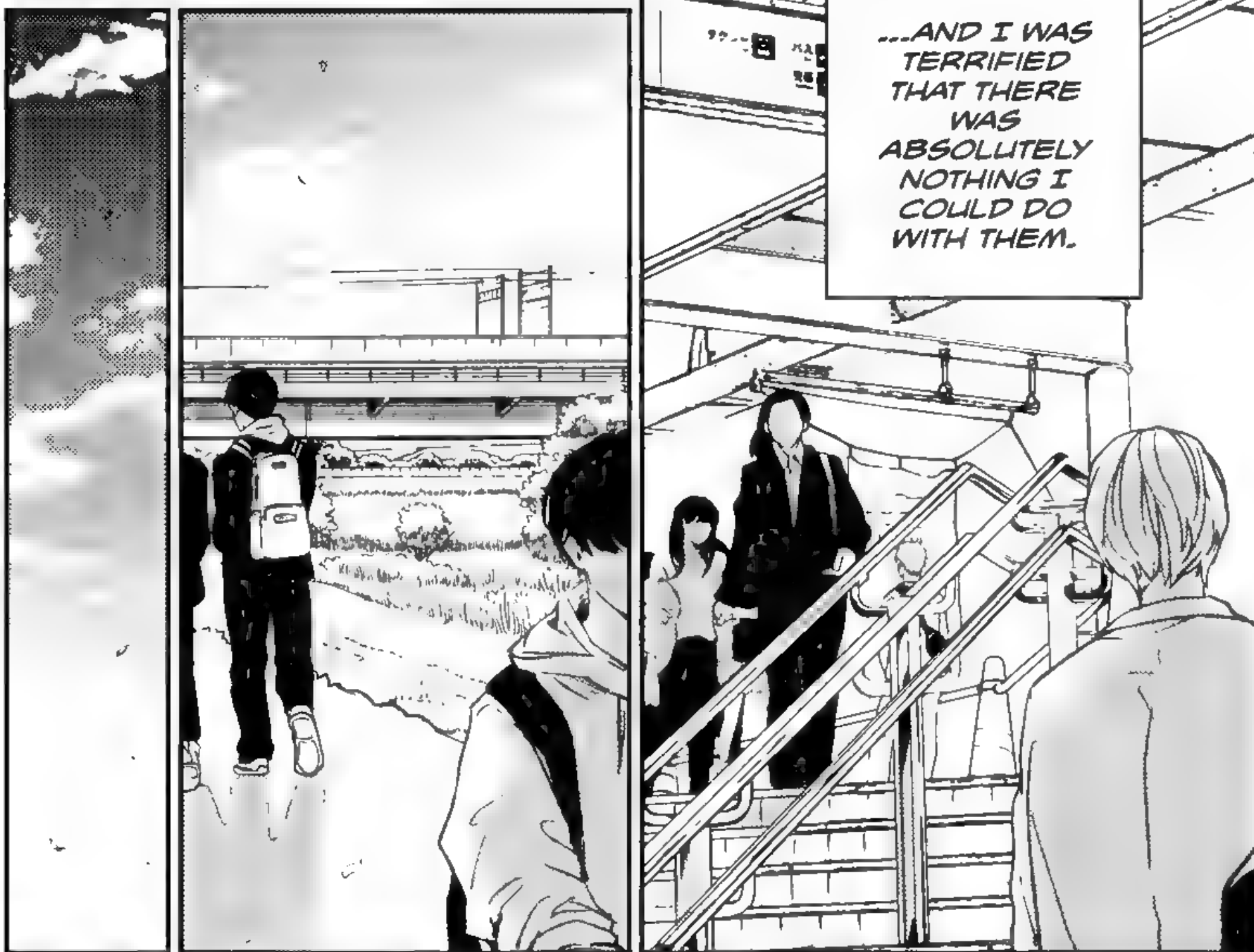


IN THE
CONCERT
HALL,
LISTENING
TO HIM
PLAY THE
VIOLIN
WITH THAT
UNEXPECTED
PASSION,
I KEPT
WONDERING
WHAT—
OR WHO—
HAD
CHANGED
HIM.



SOMETHING
IN AKIHIKO
CHANGED
THAT NIGHT.







BAM!

**IF YOU
WERE GONNA
COME, YOU
SHOULDA
TOLD ME!!**

**I SAW
YOU WHILE
I WAS
PLAYING AND
ALMOST
CALLED OUT
TO YOU!!**



LITTLE

YOU

AKI—



SNEAK!



Huff!

Huff!

Huff!

**WELL,
THANKS A LOT!
ANYWAY,
YOU FEELIN'
OKAY?!**

**I WAS
TOTALLY
EMBARRASSED
HAVIN' YOU
SEE ME
PLAY!**

WHY?

YOU
WERE
REALLY
COOL....

MAFLYU
SUDDENLY
SHOWED
UP THIS
MORNING
AND MADE
ME COME
WITH
HIM....

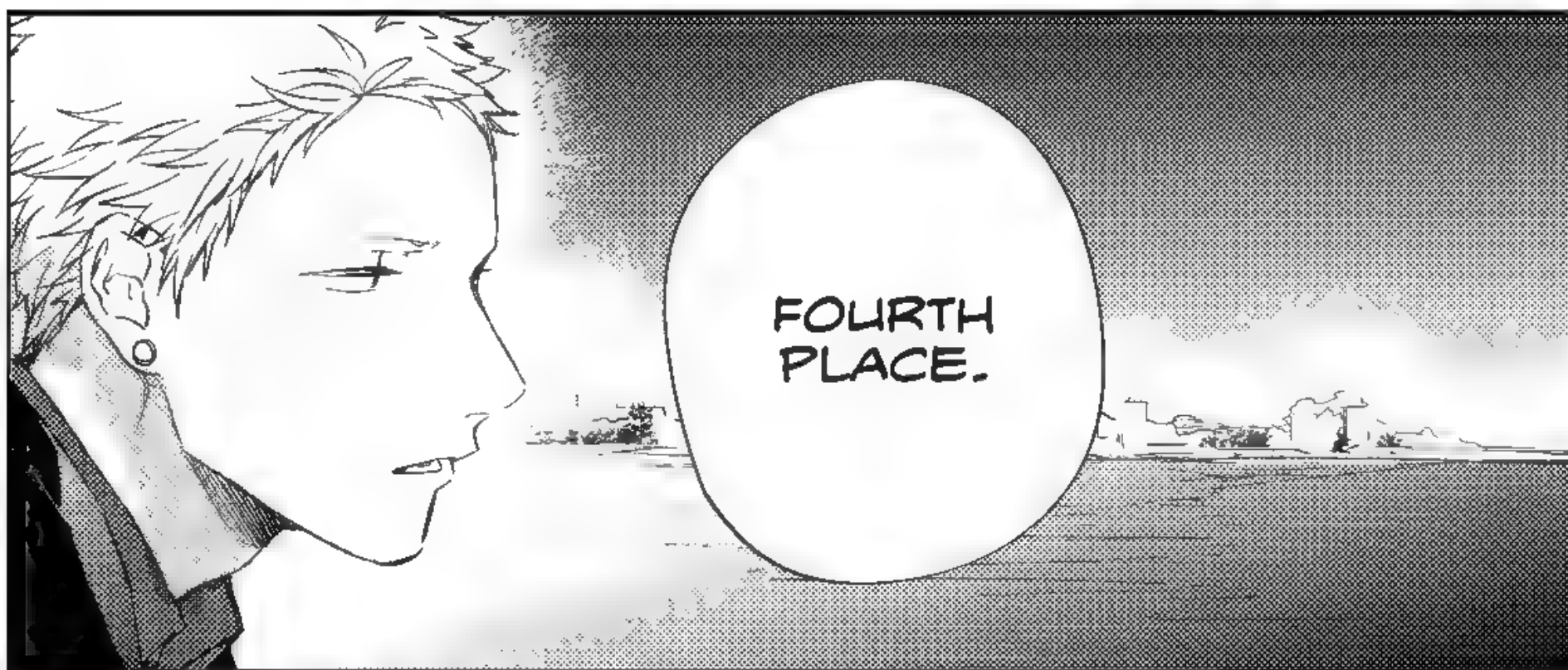
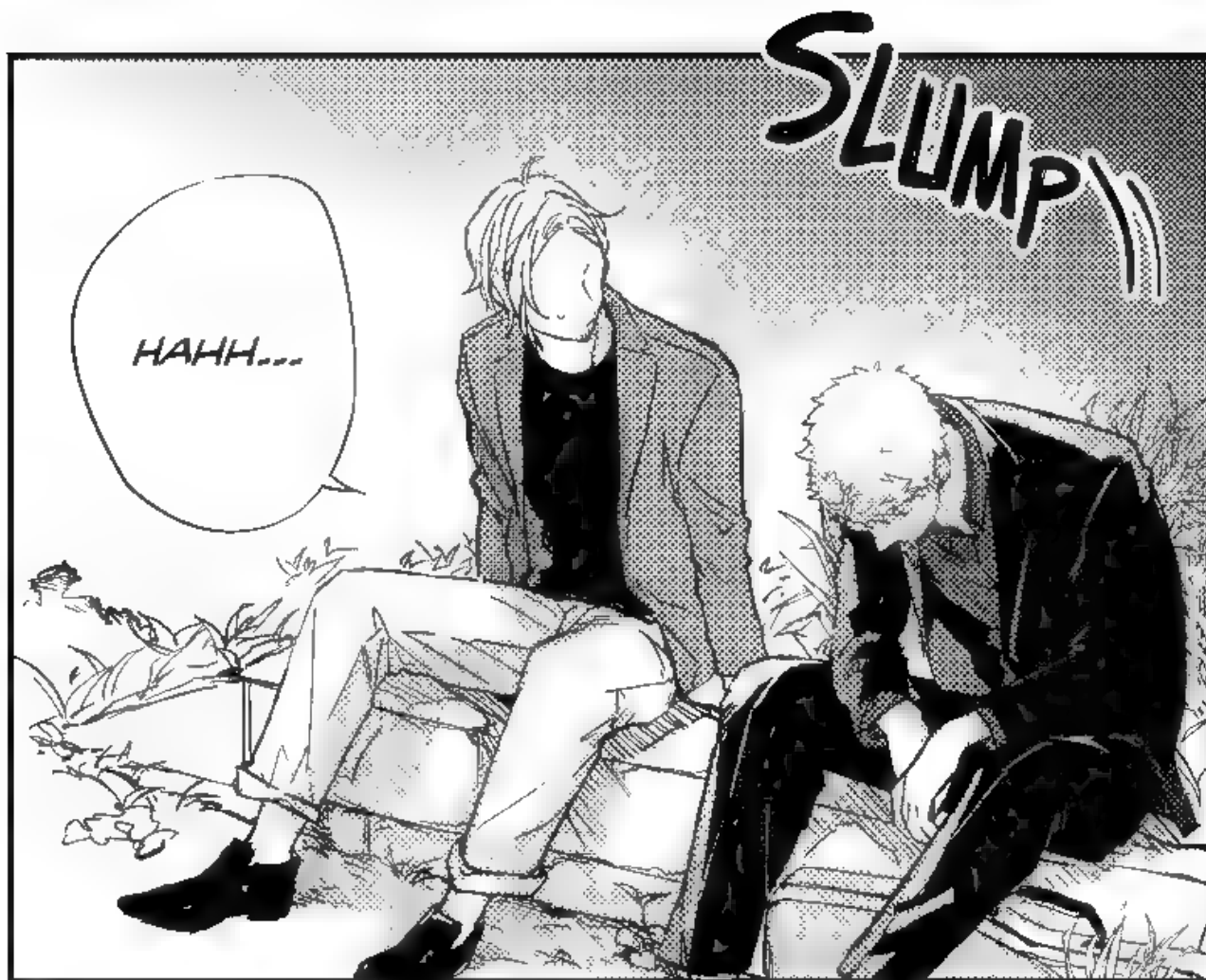
**WHAT
WERE YOU
DOING
THERE?!**

Stunned



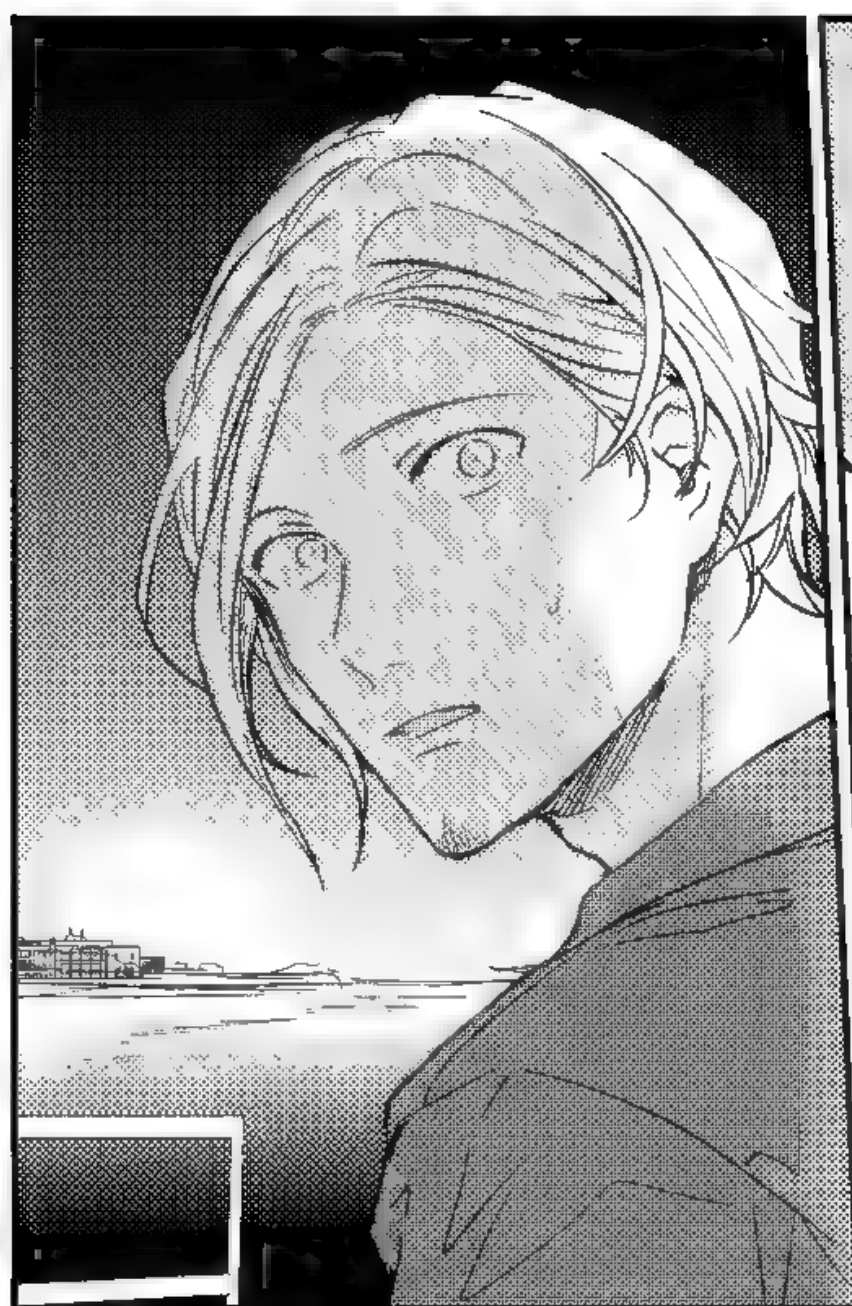
OH,
UM...
YEAH...

SO
WHAT
WAS THE
RESULT?





...THANK
YOU.



LISTEN...
I
BROKE
UP...

...WITH
UGETSU,
THE GUY
I WAS
IN LOVE
WITH.



I GOT
IN TOUCH
WITH MY
PARENTS
AND
BEGGED
THEM FOR
MONEY.

BUT...
WHEN YOU
SUDDENLY
MOVED OUT
OF MY
PLACE, I
THOUGHT—

WHAT?



NOW I
WANNA
SEE...

...JUST
HOW
FAR
I CAN
GET.

*BUT
WHY...?*

BEFORE
THEN...

THAT'S
WHEN YOU
SUDDENLY
THREW
YOURSELF
INTO THE
VIOLIN...

...I
WAS
RUNNING
AWAY
FROM
IT.



AND THAT'S
WHEN YOU
SUDDENLY
STARTED ACTING
DISTANT
TOWARDS
ME.

THAT
WAS
'CAUSE
I—

**IT'S
BECAUSE
OF YOU!**

IT'S LIKE
YOU KEPT
CHANGING
OUT OF
NOWHERE!
I FEEL LIKE
I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE
ANY—

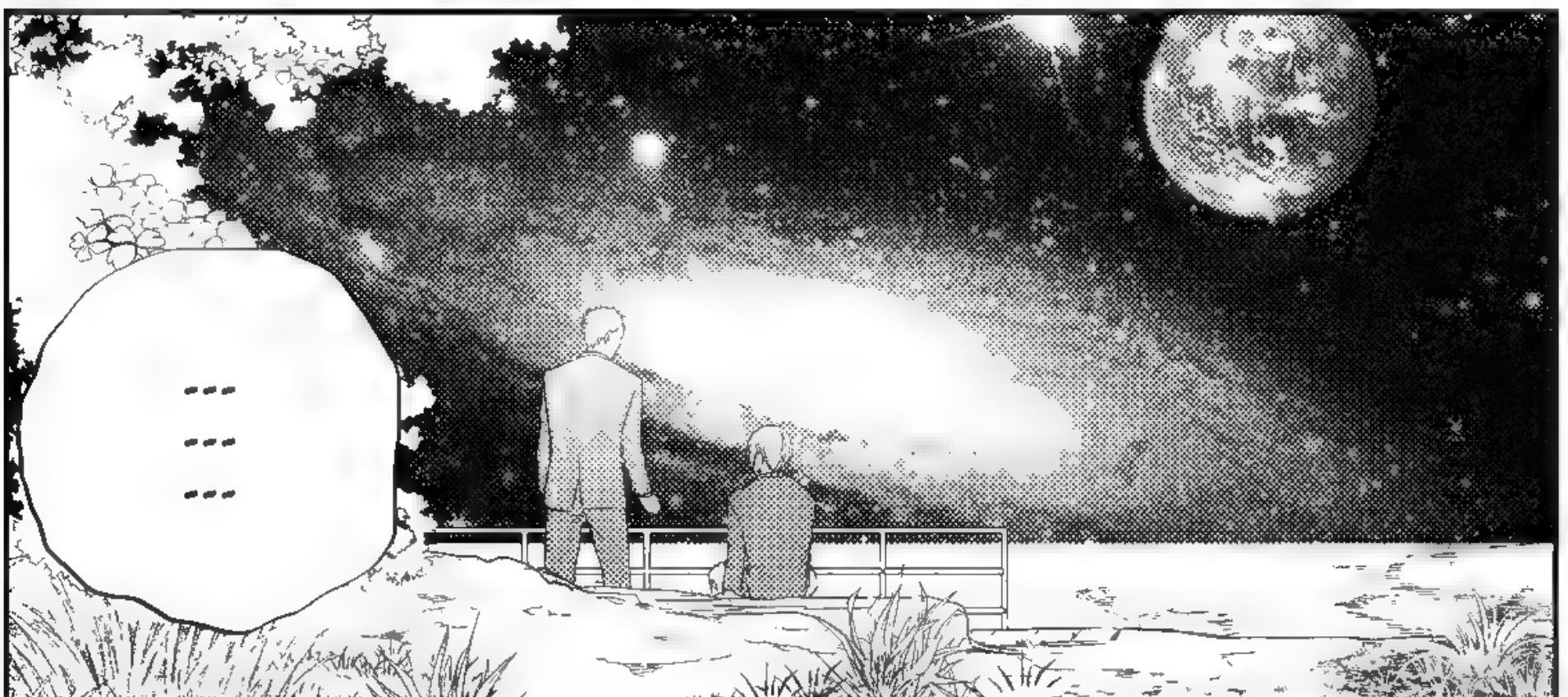
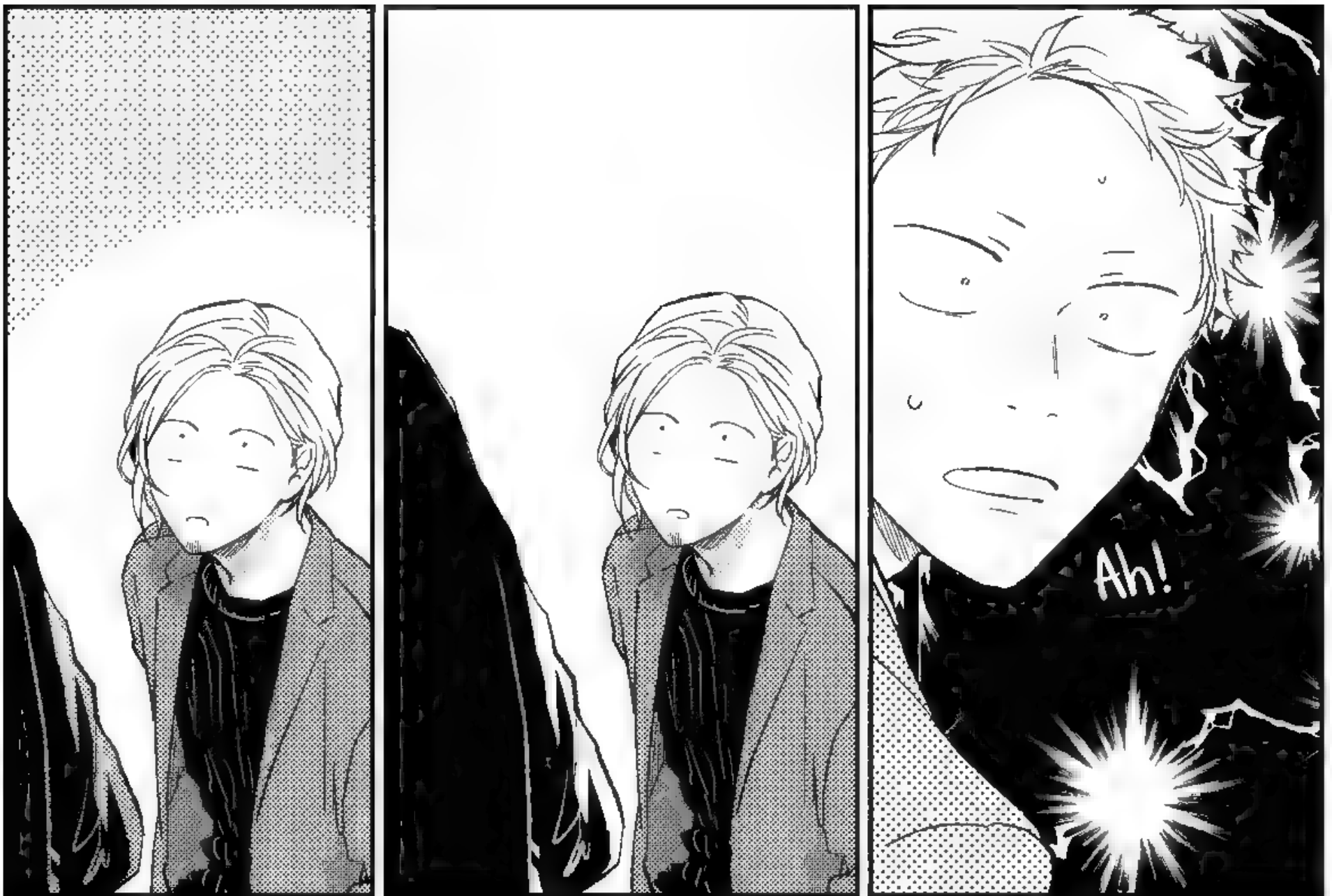


**THE
REASON
WHY...**

**...I
CHANGED
THE WAY
I WAS
LIVIN'...**

**...IS
BECAUSE
I WANNA
BECOME
THE KIND
OF MAN
YOU
DESERVE,
DAMN IT!**

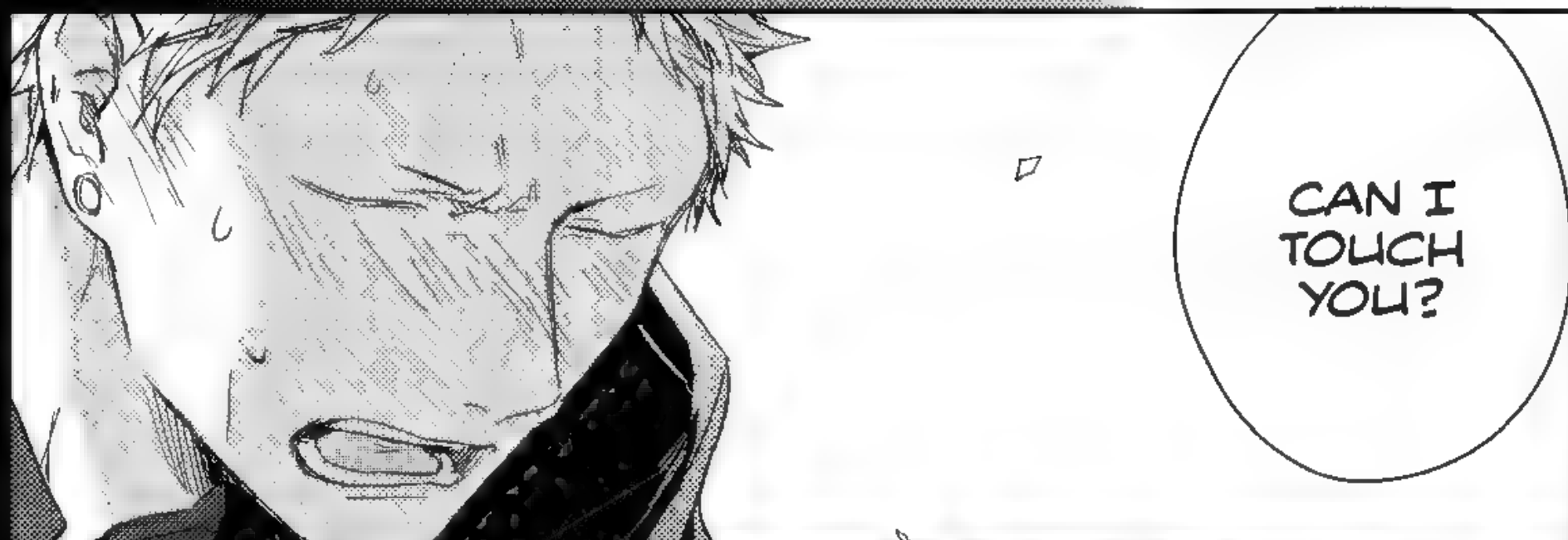








WHY...





WHY
ARE YOUR
HANDS
TREMBLING?



I...

...YEAH.




I
LOVE
YOU.

PLEASE
GO OUT
WITH ME.

I
DON'T
WANNA
HURT
YOU
ANYMORE.





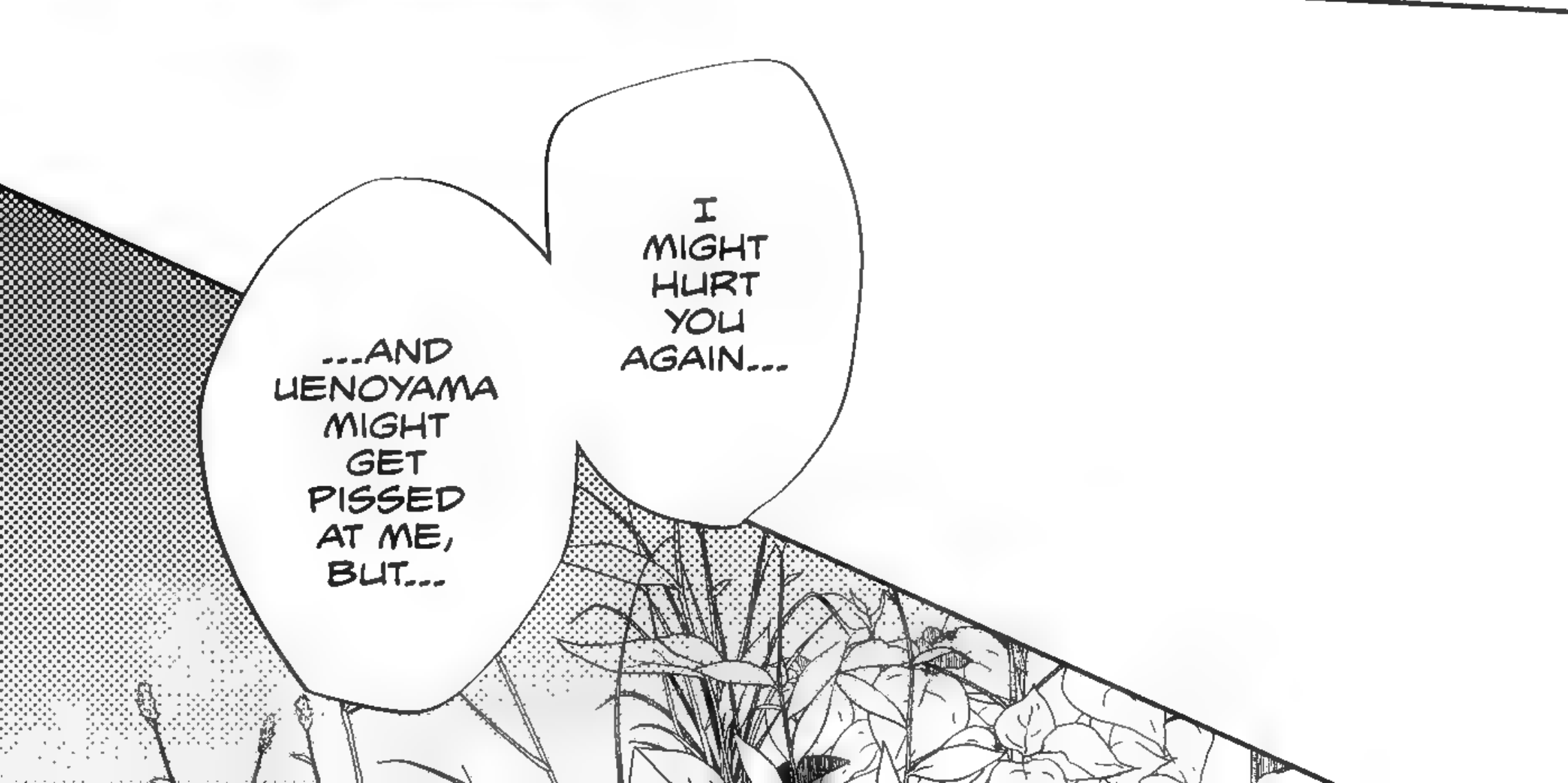
DAMN...
I
JUMPED
THE GUN...



I'M
BEING
DUMB...

...AND
SELFISH.

I'M
ACTING
LIKE A
LITTLE
KID.



...AND
UENOYAMA
MIGHT
GET
PISSSED
AT ME,
BUT...

I
MIGHT
HURT
YOU
AGAIN...





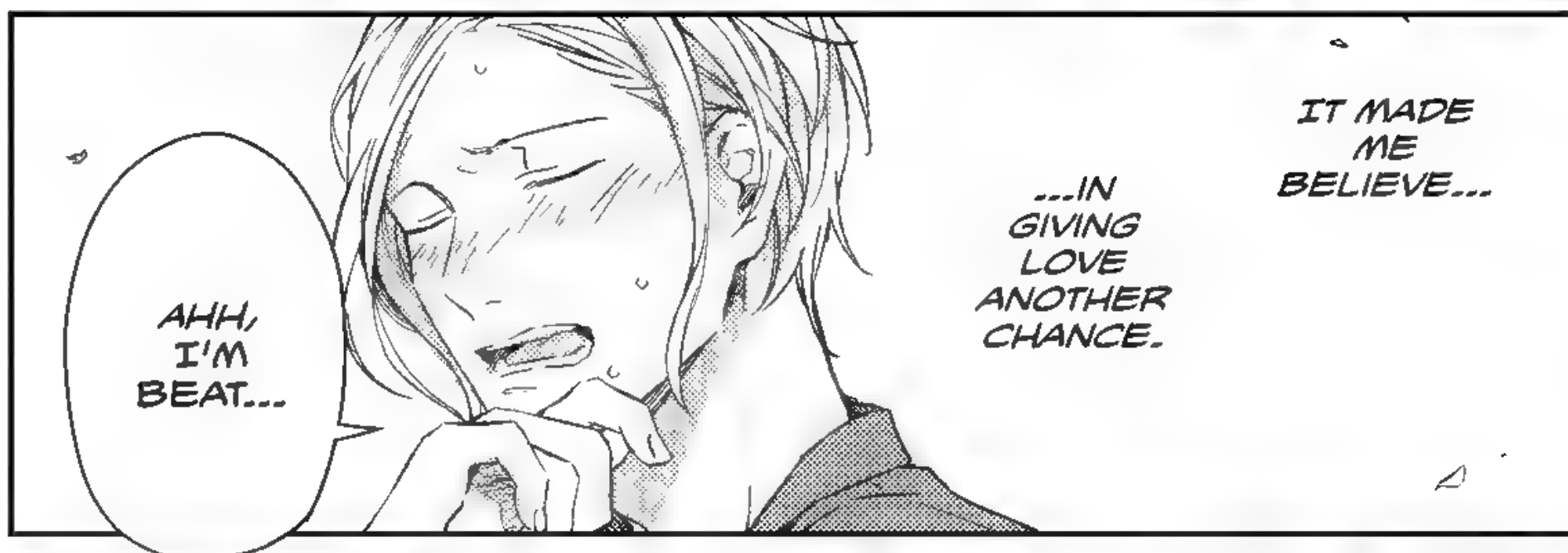


IT'S LIKE
MAFLYU'S
SONG
WAS
MAGIC.



...FOR
REAL?

YEAH,
FOR
REAL.



AHH,
I'M
BEAT...

...IN
GIVING
LOVE
ANOTHER
CHANCE.

IT MADE
ME
BELIEVE...



IT
HAPPENED
ONE
SPRING.

AKIHIKO
...



A
SIMPLE
LOVE
STORY
BEGAN.

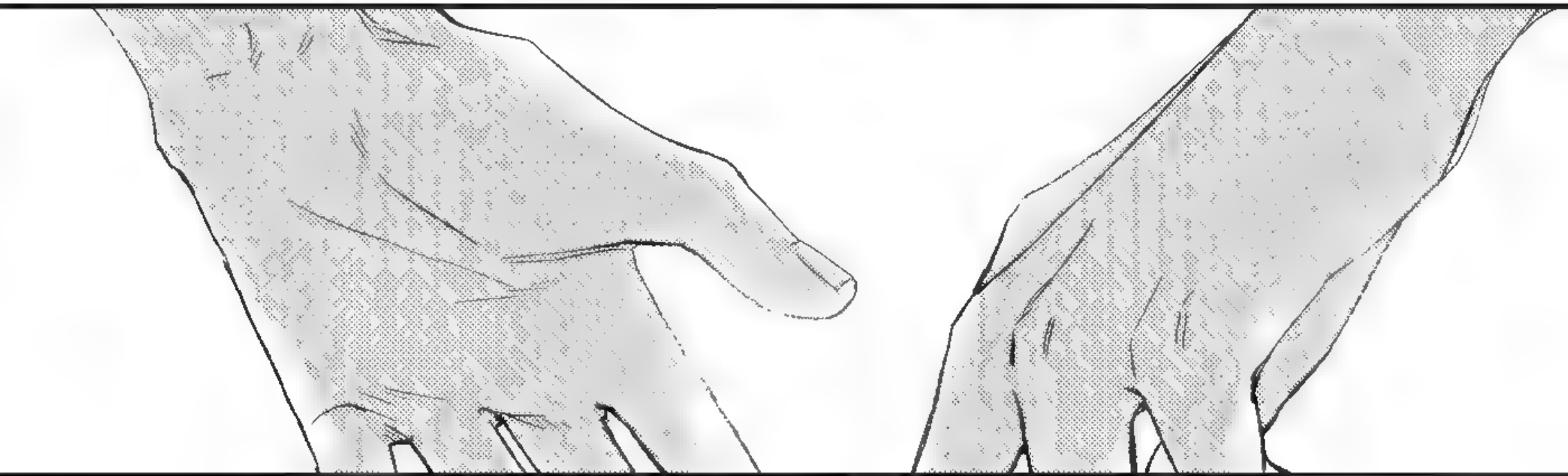
To Be Continued...

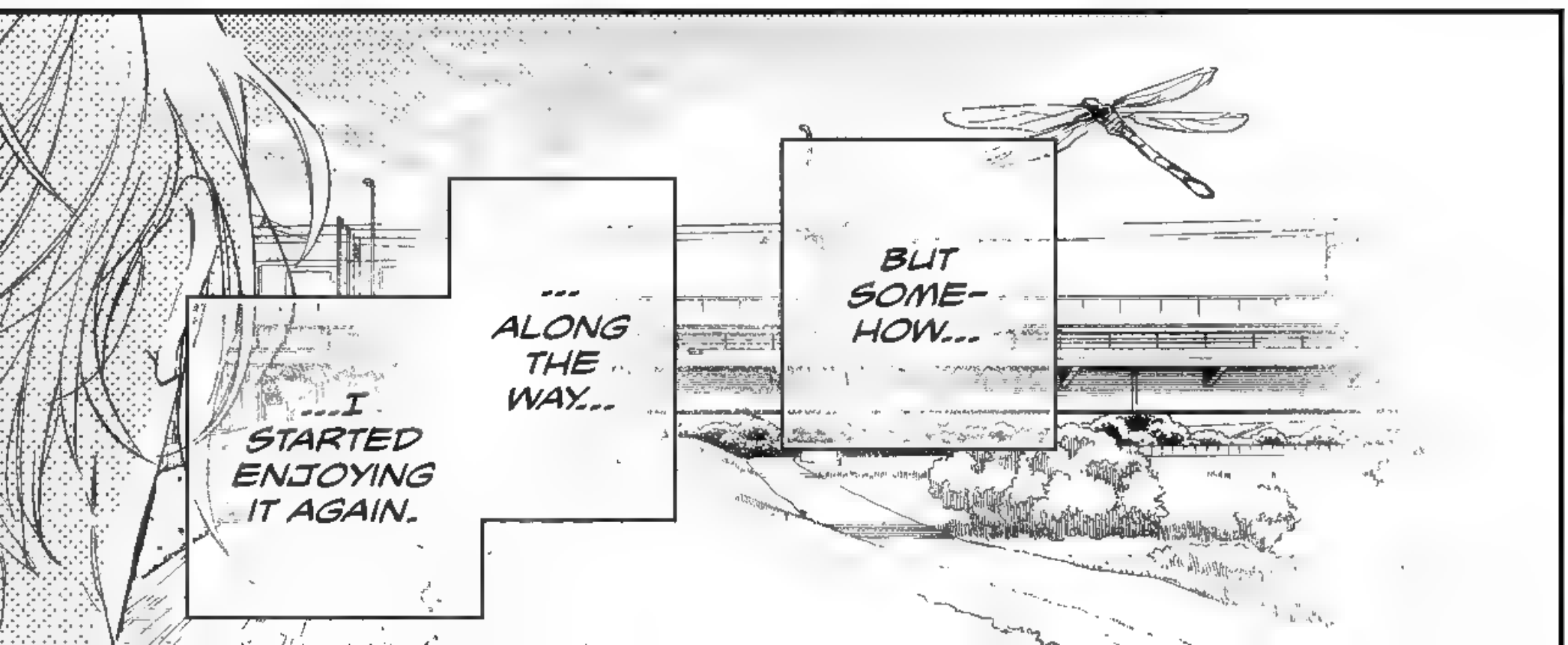
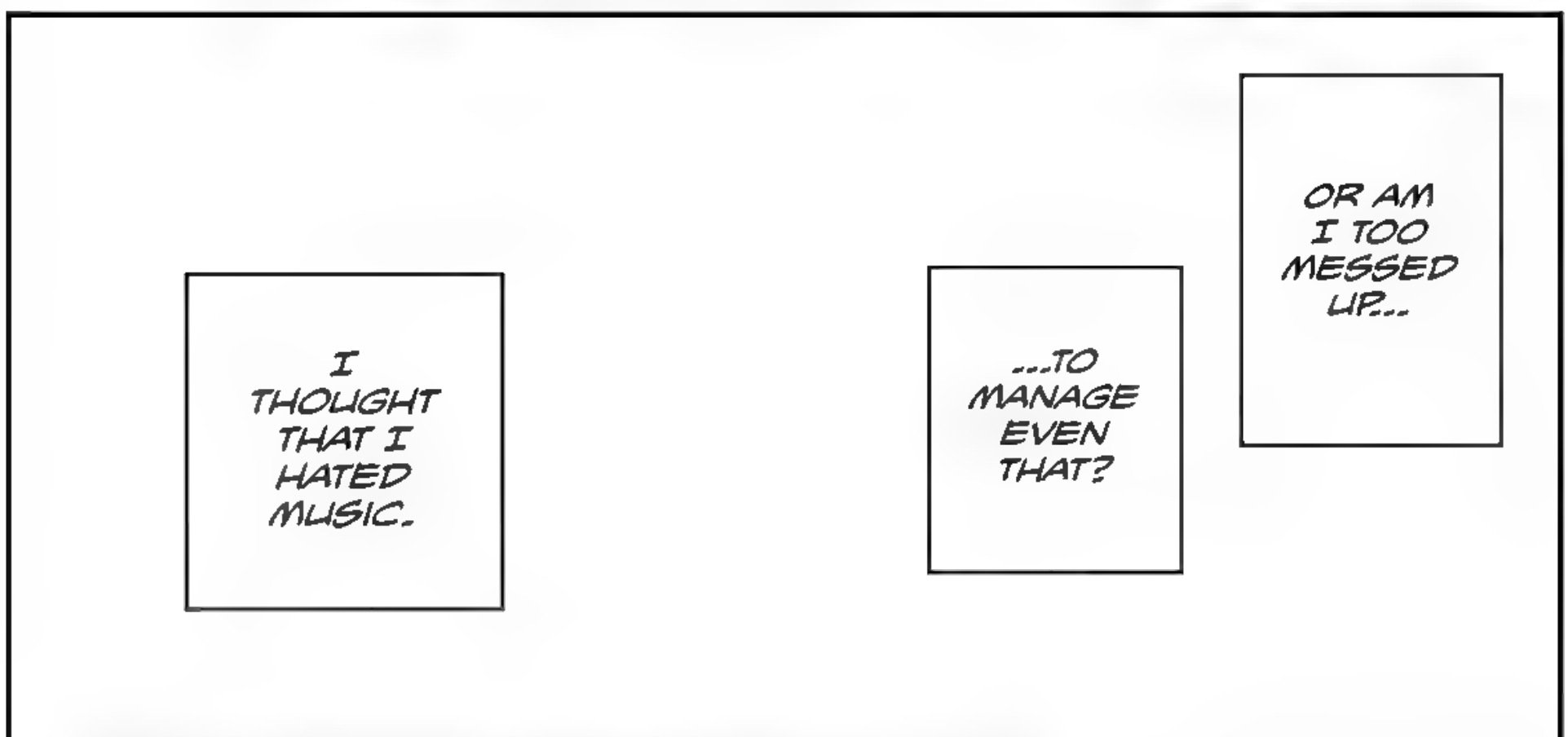
given

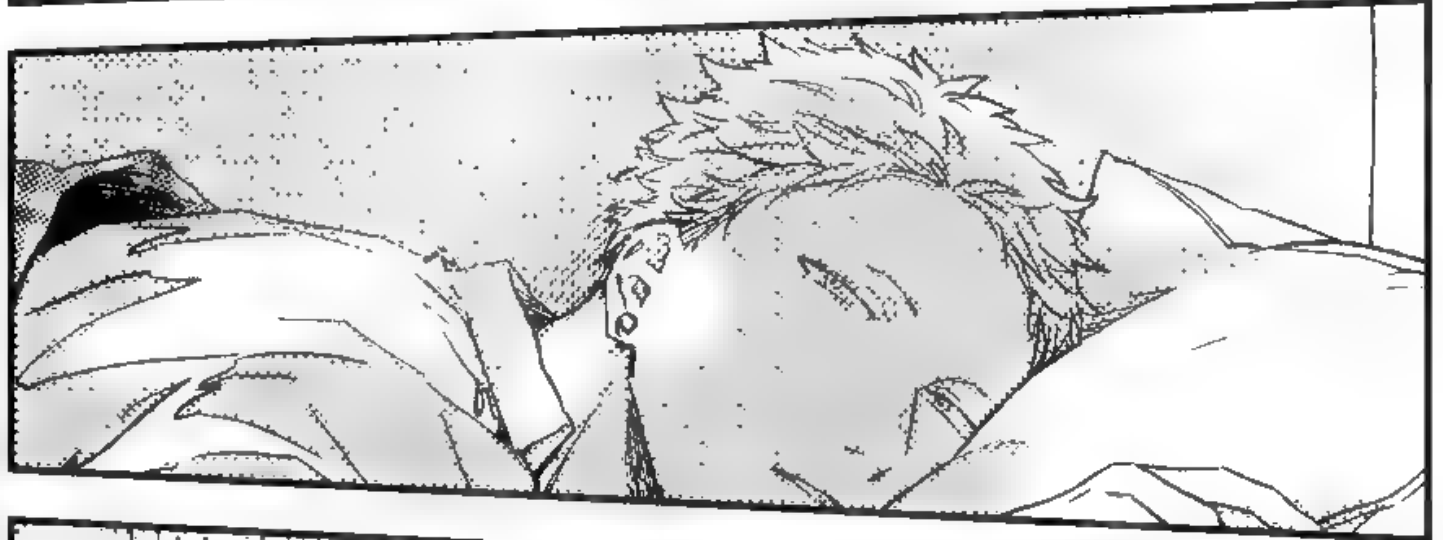
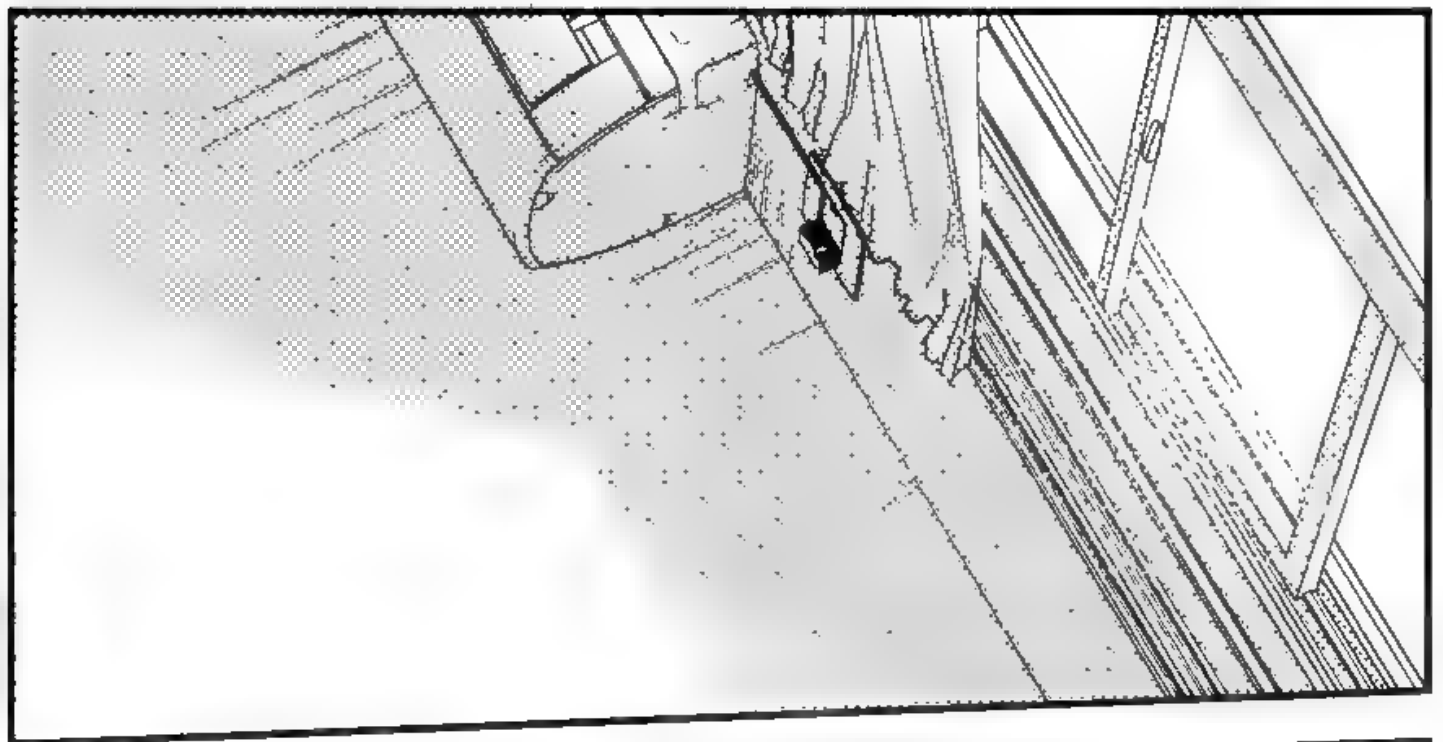
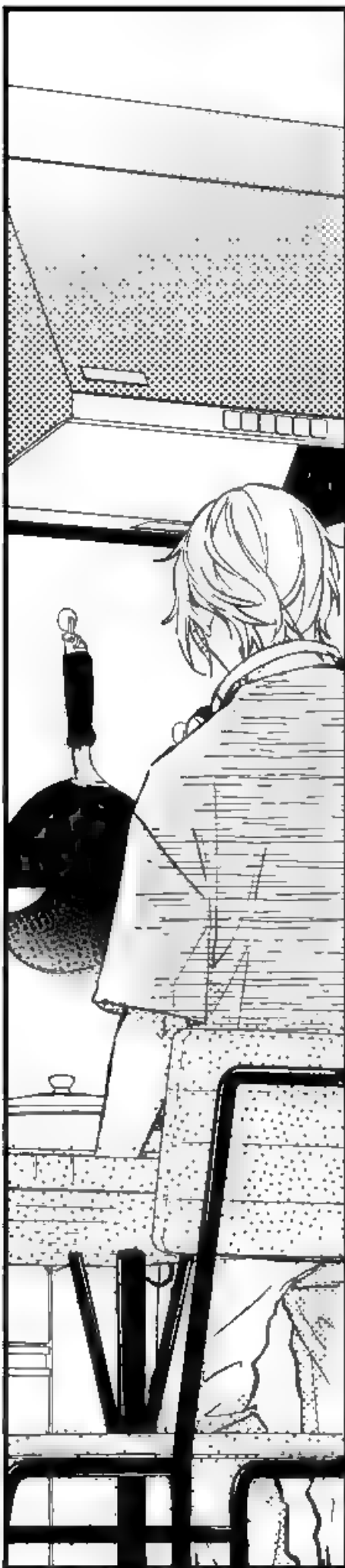
by Natsuki Kizu



AND YET
WE KEPT
HURTING
EACH
OTHER,
OVER AND
OVER
AGAIN.









....I
WANTED
TO BEG
HIM TO
HELP
ME.

I'LL BE
BACK
SOON...

I'LL
APOLOGIZE
TO HIM.

I'LL
TELL HIM
THAT I
LOVE HIM.



Emergence—End

given

by Natsuki Kizu

About violin
shoulder rests

Musicians have
differing opinions(?)
about shoulder rests.
Ugetsu doesn't use one. →

This is because he likes
to feel the response from
the instrument. It has
absolutely nothing to
do with me taking
artistic shortcuts...

With shoulder rest

Without shoulder rest →



He usually practices standing up.

I don't use
one either.



Bonus!
Concept notes
and sketches

AND I
DO HAVE
ASSIGNED
MUSIC TO
COMPLETE.

WELL, IF
I DON'T
PRACTICE
A CERTAIN
AMOUNT,
I'LL GET
RUSTY.



(The violin performance
on the drama CD
was recorded live.)

At the recording, the violinist, Ms.
Aoshima, graciously allowed me to
observe her for research purposes.
She even brought out a bunch of
broken bowstrings from the studio!!

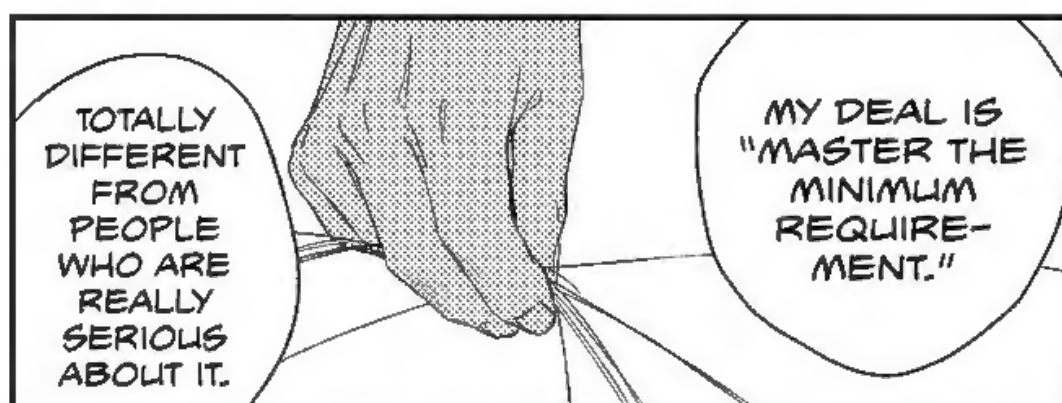
S-S-S-So cool!!!

Inspiration for this panel. →

Apparently you can
rehair violin bows.

TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM
PEOPLE
WHO ARE
REALLY
SERIOUS
ABOUT IT.

MY DEAL IS
"MASTER THE
MINIMUM
REQUIRE-
MENT."



I show Kaji picking up broken strings...

About a character
profile from volume 1

In the first version of
this page, I called these
"teardrop" picks, but
later I corrected it to
"triangle" picks.

Triangle



Can use all
three edges

Teardrop



Can use only
one edge

Correction

Sorry!

Suka Uenoyama (16)

175 cm

(Second-year high school student)

Day: 8/1 Sign: Leo Blood Type: B

Guitar → Telecaster Custom
(black) (customized a little)

Uses cr. → triangle picks

(Easy-grip type)



Special Thanks for Everything

Editor-in-chief, Ayaka, Matsushita, Tamura

My assistant Eri Hayashi

3D modeling production Rin

For research cooperation Cō Shu Nie, Yama-san (WHITE ASH), Sachiyo Aoshima
@co_shu_nie @sotto_yamasan @Sachiyo_violin

For material cooperation Yoneji, Fujioka, Daisuke, Ko

Live house Machida WEST VOX (former)

My editor Matsumoto

I've never been in a band, so
you've all been a great help!

About the Author

Natsuki Kizu made her professional debut in 2013 with *Yukimura Sensei and Kei-kun*, followed by the short story collection *Links* and her breakout series, *Given*, which has been adapted into drama CDs and an animated TV series. To find out more about her works, you can follow her on Twitter at **@kizu_ntk**.

Given

Volume 5

SuBLime Manga Edition

Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

Translation—**Sheldon Drzka**

Touch-Up Art and Lettering—**Sabrina Heep**

Cover and Graphic Design—**Jimmy Presler**

Editor—**Beryl Becker**

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Originally published in Japan in 2019 by Shinshokan Co., Ltd.



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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by SuBLime Manga
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, February 2021



PARENTAL ADVISORY

GIVEN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.

SUBLIME

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